ROCK ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
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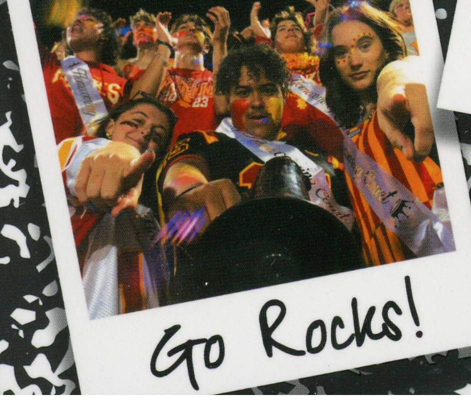
GO ROCKS

RIHS WATCHTOWER
2024-2025

Dear Rocky,

2024 -2025



Go Rocks!

The front
endpaper
is
blank.

DEAR ROCKY,

sincerely, us

Rock island

WATCHTOWER 2024-2025

VOLUME 115

ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL

ROCK ISLAND
907
914

"Be bold, be loud, and have fun. Go out of your comfort zone and make spontaneous decisions. Don't waste your last year being quiet. Have fun, and make your mark on the school."
- Morris Nunn

"The more prepared you are now, the more ready you will be in the future, so don't settle for standard. Challenge yourself, and take advantage of what's being offered. Things work out best for people who make the best of the way things work out."
- Lucien Tarnow

> **"Show the Rocky spirit, whether it's every day at school, or during a meet. Whatever it is, do it with pride and respect."**

our SENIOR YEAR

Our final year, the one we wish to be the best of all, of course. We have made it through to the end. Yes, the joy of experiencing all of your "last firsts" is bittersweet, but you're here for a reason. Remember to savor every moment, soak in all the memories that you'll look back on and title in your head, "the good old days." It's really easy not to realize you're living "the good old days" because senior year is still stressful. However, live them now. Be sure you know your future is bright. And, just think about how proud your freshman self would be if they could see you now.

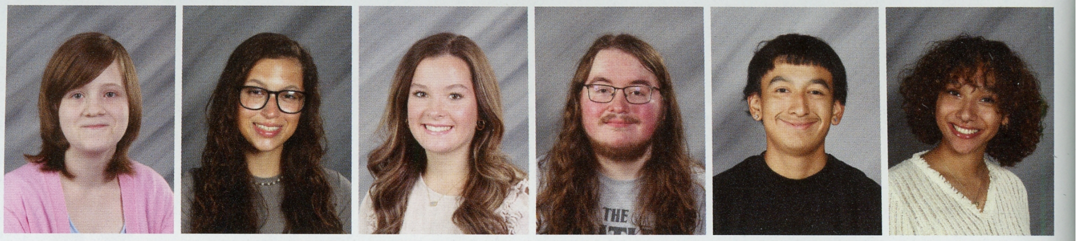
"Stay curious, embrace challenges, and cultivate resilience. Don't be afraid to ask questions, seek help, or explore unconventional paths. Prioritize meaningful relationships, self-care, and personal growth, alongside academic achievements. Trust your unique journey, and celebrate every step forward."

- Eliza Jolie

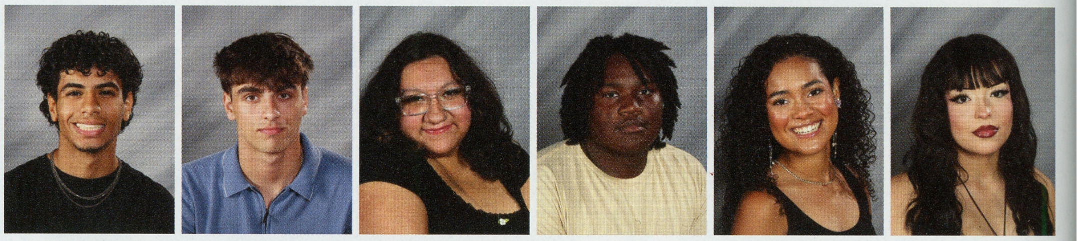
"Live a little while you continue to put in work for your last year at Rock Island High School. One more thing, even though things seem really weird right now, enjoy this year, because you will never have anything like it ever again."
- Ja'siah Rainer

"Be kind and be smart towards everything you do in life."
- Kevin Mayares, Jr.

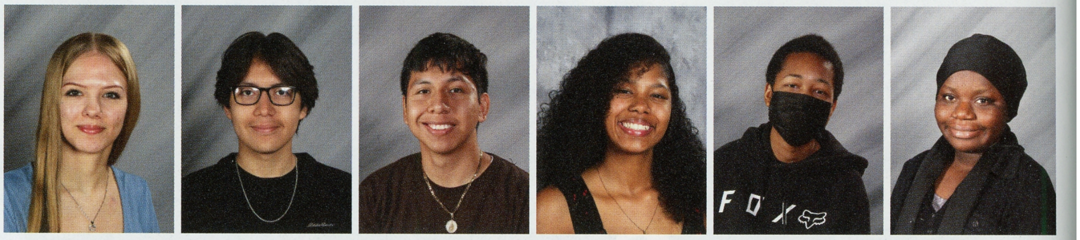
Kit Adams
Elaina Adlfinger
Isabella Adner
Jordan Ahrens
Luis Albarran
Cristina Aleman



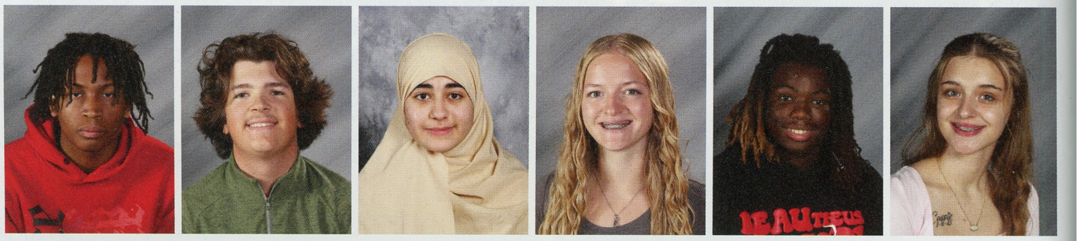
Hussein Alhamdan
Ali Aliev
Olivia-Ann Almanza
Camron Anderson
Keziah Anderson
Alba Arellano



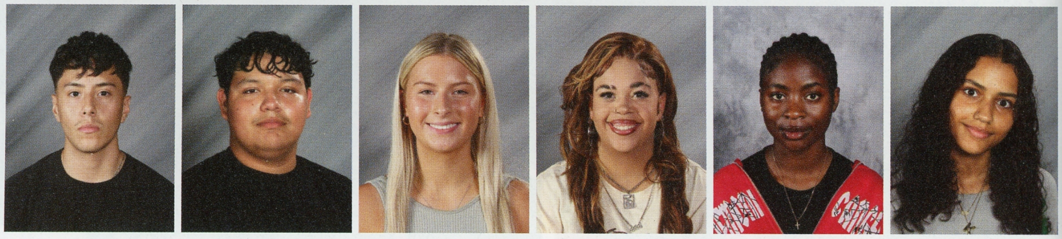
Kaily Armstrong
Luis Arredondo-Lopez
David Avila-Perez
Ia'yahh Ayyash
Vital Babwiriza
Nyota Bahininwa



Ja'Neel Baltimore-Steward
Carson Banks
Bibi Barikzay
Karli Barker
Amilieyon Barker-Matthews
Addison Barrell



Alejandro Barrera-Gandarias
Cory Beltran
Annika Bergheger
Joslyn Bernal
Francoise Betty
Kaylee Binion



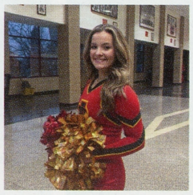
Rocks' Future Majors

"After high school, I plan to write a book during college and become an author."

- Kayla Mathews

"After high school, I would like to get an online degree in sports management, and a minor in coaching."

- Mylie Shook

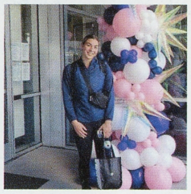


"After high school, I plan on double majoring in criminal justice and psychology."

- Mia Hixson

"After high school, I plan to go into a pre-law program, and go to law school for either criminal law or family law."

- NJ Nocentelli



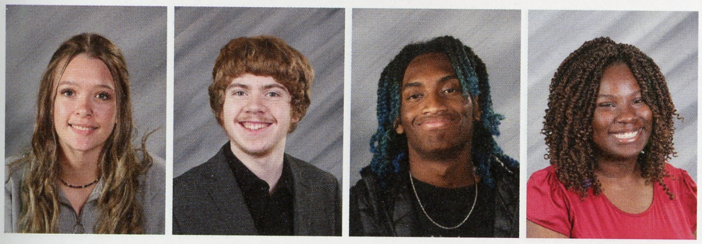
"After high school, I plan to major in speech language pathology."

- Isabella Adner

"After high school, I want to major in sports management."

- Grace Vidmar

Quincy Black
Puratee Bogart-Pepper
Seraphine Bonyema
Makyah Boykins



Zoe Bradley
Alexander Breiby
Joe Brooks
A'Keyla Brown

Christopher Brown
Sephannie Brown
Wyatt Bunch
De'Ja Burmeister

Ler Bwe
Johnnieeah Campbell
Austin Cantrell
Jeffery Capps

Marco Carapia
Anarie Carlton
Caleb Carpenter
Gunnar Carroll

Madison Carroll
Mary Carruthers
Finn Caulkins
Tullis Cavins

Fredy Cedillo Raymundo
Bukeneza Cendrine
Cecilia Chavez
Taylor Chenoweth

ONE LAST THING...

"It's always okay to be yourself. Don't change who you are just to fit in."
- Marco Carapia

"Get out of your comfort zone and talk to people you wouldn't normally talk to."
- Dylan Frantz

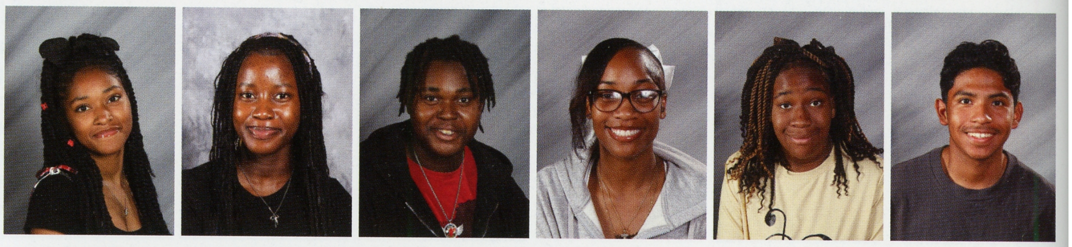
"Be yourself, because you will inspire multiple people in different ways."
- September Naing

"You aren't alone. You don't need a big group to lean on. Just find yourself."
- Puratee Bogart- Pepper

"You can do anything you put your mind to. You can accomplish anything."
- Yazmin Medrano

"Stay focused and dedicated to your craft. It will pay off in the end."
- V'Jay Garrard

Alexander Churchill
Aaliyah Clark
Jae'Vion Clark
Namarion Coleman
Davonte Conner
Yasmin Contreras-Villagomez



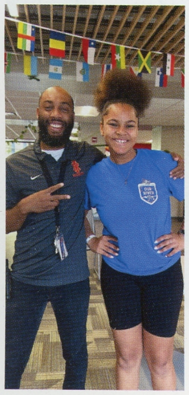
JC-Leeyah Cooper
Niyonyishu Cornelio
Nakelle Counts-Richardson
Ja'Liyah Craig
Sydney Crawford
Nathaniel Cruz-Oliveros

Chase Curry
Makyah Daniels
LaNina Daugherty
Myles Davis
Tray'shauna Davison
Jackson DeLeu

Andrew DeMarlie
Dillion DePaepe
Natalee DeVoss
Kylie Dokes
Edward Dominguez
Aundrea Doss

Trace Downing
Allison Drish
Isaiss Duarte
Justice Dunbar
Isabella Dunford
Jazimine Eckmann-Allred

INSPIRATIONAL ICONS



"My icon is Mr. Spicer. Mr. Spicer is also my brother, and having him in the building throughout the years has made my high school experience more fun and enjoyable. I mostly enjoy going up to him and cracking jokes, and just knowing I have someone who'd do anything for me in the building is the most important."

- LaNina Daugherty

"Mrs. Braun-Howard has most impacted my high school years at Rocky. She has given me amazing academic advice, and has seen me grow up from elementary through her previous positions in the district. Mrs. Braun-Howard also checks in on my progress. Every morning, she'll be on the island, greeting students, with a welcoming smile. I know that if I ever need something, she will try her best to be able to provide the resources I need."

- Carla Nieto

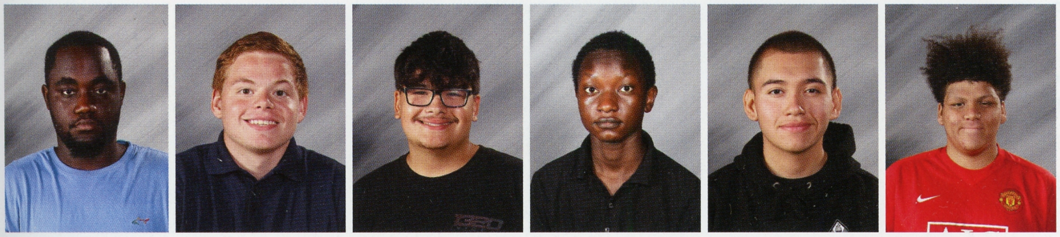
"Someone who's made an impact on me is Mrs. Nevener. She made a huge impact on me. She is like a second mom. She always listens to me when I need someone, and she's, overall, an amazing person!"

- A'Keyla Brown

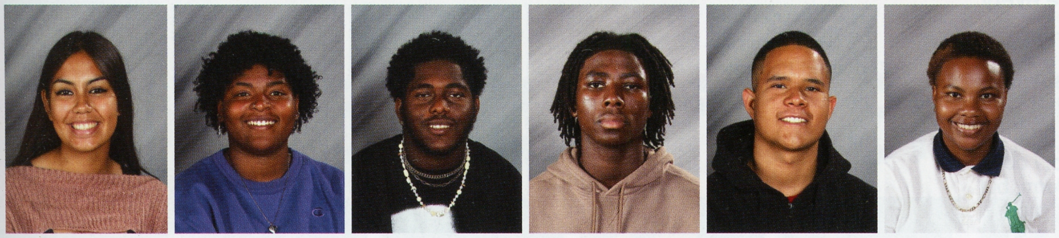
Christen Egan
Zoe Ehlers
Thom Elliott
Kashindi Emedi
Remi Engeland
Presence Erodiance

Jayden Erps
Murebereza Fabiola
Luundo Famiya
Joshua Farrance
Mariana Faulkner
Travonna Ferguson

Noemi Figueroa-Salinas
La'Rontae Ford
Arianna Fornal
Kale Foster
Dylan Frantz
Gavin Freitas



Alex Gahimbare
Colin Galbraith
David Gallardo
Aimable Ganza
Giovanni Garcia
Isaiah Garcia

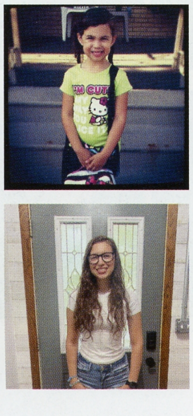


Andrea Garcia-Gallegos
Avianna Gardner
Jaylin Gardner
V'Jay Garrard
Jordohn Gillen
Essence Gilmore

Lizzie Shorten

Abbey Lieber

Elaina Adlfinger



A'rion Lonergan

Leah Kitterman

Back in Time to the First Day

Twelve years ago, Rocky seniors started their first day of kindergarten, and began the first school year of their lives. Now, they have had their last first day of high school. They are all grown up, and doing this one last time!

SPORT SUPERSTITIONS

"I pray during the national anthem before every game."

- Benjamin Goeh

"I have to do my hair the same every game."

- Olivia Samuelson

"If I don't feel tired during the warm up, then I know I'm going to swim bad."

- Reagan Hawotte

"I need my ankles and wrists taped for every game."

- Antonio Rayford

"Before I serve, I always spin my racket."

- Elaina Adlfinger

"I pray before every game."

- Hussein Alhamdan

"If I play good, I don't wash my uniform, but if I play bad, then I do."
- Namarion Coleman

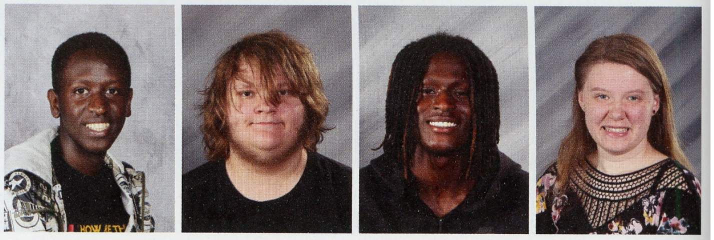
"Every game, I need to draw a cross on my wrist tape, then on the other side, I write Proverbs 3:5."
- Grant Stewart

"If I wear my hair a certain way, and then we lose that game, I don't wear my hair like that again."
- Elizabeth McCoy

"I always have to putt without a glove on."

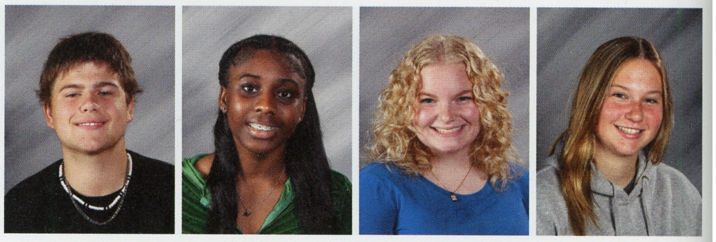
- Jackson DeLeu

Olivier Gisubizo
Aiden Glaski
Benjamin Goeh
Lauren Gottcent

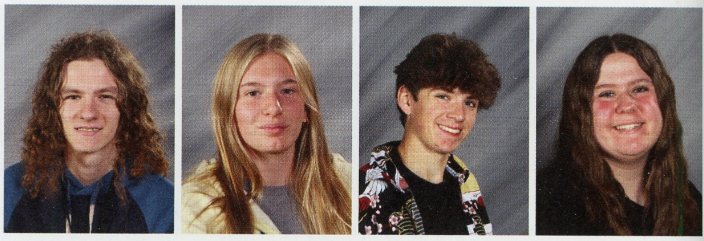


Gaheta Gratien
Riley Gray
Noah Guy
Cyrus Gwesinie

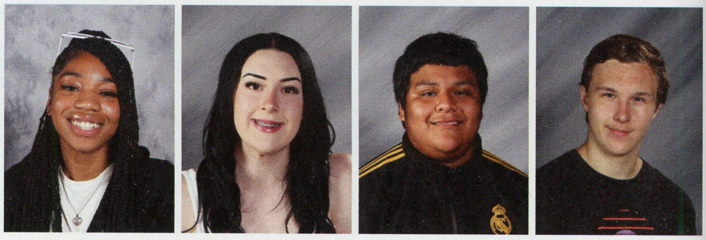
Chase Hadley
Malaya Haley
Chloe Harmon
Grace Hathaway



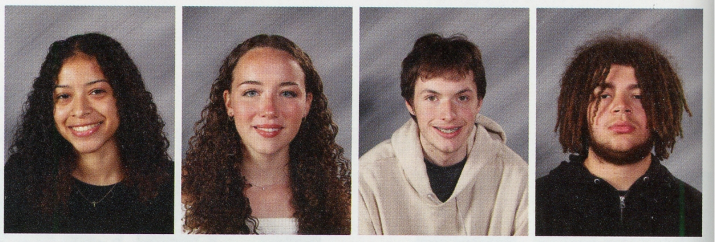
Daniel Hauskins
Reagan Hawotte
Lukas Heine
Joslynn Henderson



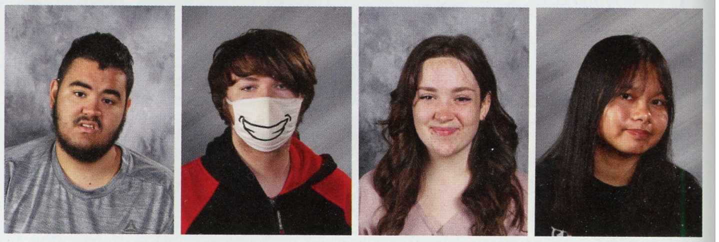
Rayna Henry
Faith Herington
Christopher Hernandez
Aiden Hill



Kamiya Hill
Mia Hixson
Cameron Holland
Isaiah Horskins



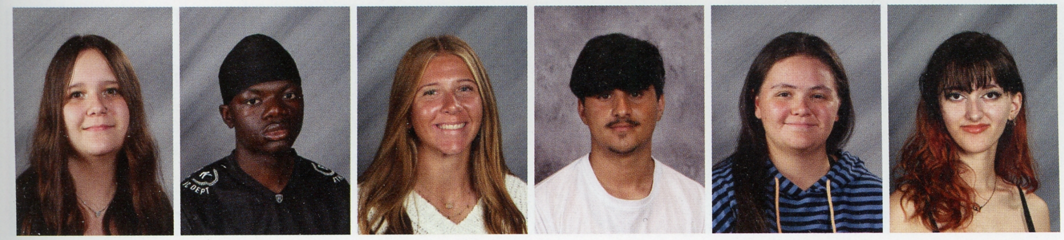
Karsen Horton
Kaden Hoteling
Stella Houk
Moo Gay Htoo



Ywa Tar Hay Htoo
Austin Huff
Benjamin Huisman
Nevaeh Hunter
Olivier Itabelo
Amyah Jackson

Ki'Leyah Jackson
Nadiya Jackson
Hannah James
Birdie Johnson
Zeppelin Johnson
Jayla Johnson-Coleman

Caydence Johnson-Scriver
Eliza Jolie
Aunah Jones
Malaysia Jones-Collier
Olivia Kargl
Harrison Kelley



Jessa Kelley
Itabelo Kenasi
Jozie Kerr
Fayaz Khalaqi
Lillian King
Nyx King

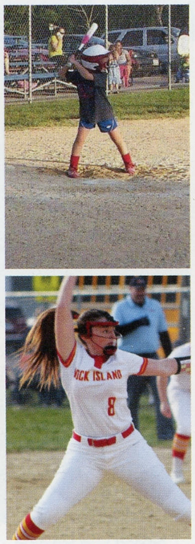
BABY BALLERS

Jozie Kerr

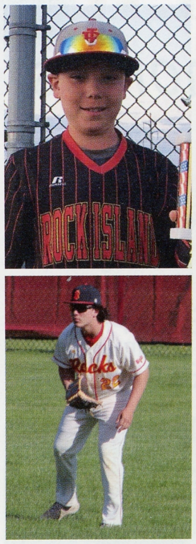
Grant Stewart

A'rion Lonergan

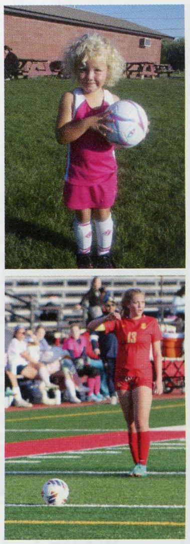
V'Jay Garrard



Maddie Carroll



Alex Churchill



Olivia Samuelson

Brayden Kirzeder
Leah Kitterman
Asta Kizungu
Coltin Klossing
Stanasia Knight
Joseph Kososki

Mu Phlay K'Tooe Soe
Hser Mu La
Kyla LaMonte
Aiden Lannen
Jolena Lannen
Connor Latcham

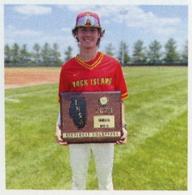
Ja'Tia Lee
Brody Lenger
Yessenia Leos-Ochoa
Damian Lessard
Kierra Lewis
Tavarias Lewis

Abbagale Lieber
A'rion Lonergan-Shinskia
Kaitlyn Long
Alexzander Lopez
Jessica Lopez
Natalie Lopez

Rock SOLID Memories

"My favorite memory is getting food after the swim meets with the team."
- Lizzie Shorten

"My favorite memory was winning Regionals, and beating the win streak for baseball in the same year."
- Chase Curry

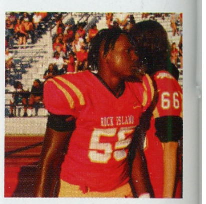


"My favorite memory of high school is Friday Night Lights with my friends."
- Jack DeLeu

"My favorite memory was cheering on Friday night against Geneseo with all my friends."
- Isabella Adner

"Being on Varsity Tennis all four years of high school."
- Leah Kitterman

"My favorite memory is winning and getting first at Nationals this year."
- Mylie Shook



"My favorite memory of high school is playing football on Friday nights."
- Myles Davis

Evelia Lucero Marrufo
Hailey Luppen
Jaxson Lydon
Harper Maloney
Leek Malual
Isabella Marceleno

Yadier Marceleno
Jillian Martin
Lynn Martin
Matthew Martin
Gerardo Martinez
Reyna Martinez

Nahomy Martinez Moreno
Kyle Mata
Kayla Mathews
Hunter Mau
Kevin Mayares
Dai Shaun McCaw

Terrence McClay
Alice McConchie
Elizabeth McCoy
Lillian McDaniel
Kamya McDuffy
Bella McNanna

Emma McNanna
Jaleeyah McNeal
Jamalaki McNeal
Nevaeh McQuay
Maliyah McVay
Yazmin Medrano

'21 THEN → NOW '25

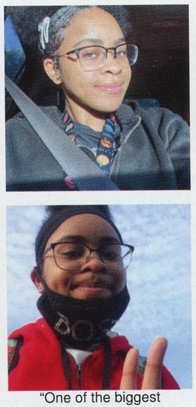
Seniors show their transformations from Freshman year to Senior year.

"In the past four years, I've grown in maturity, gaining a deeper understanding of the world and it's people. My personality has also evolved, becoming more confident and outgoing, while remaining humble and open to learning from others."

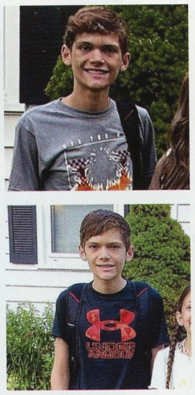
- Travonna Ferguson

"I would say that I have become more outspoken and prone to taking on challenges since my freshman year. I'm more confident, overall."

- Stella Houk



"One of the biggest differences I've seen in myself since freshman year includes my confidence in myself and my emotions. Over the years, I have learned to put more value into myself and what I believe in, which has motivated me to become my best self, as well as put more effort into my schooling."
- Aunah Jones



"I've gotten a lot more confident since freshman year, and I truly feel like I've found what I want and like to do, while in freshman year, I was just going through the motions, without trying out what high school had to offer me."

- Thom Elliott

"I've been able to be more social than I was before, and a lot of that has to do with the volunteering opportunities I had throughout my time at Rocky."

- Lillian Reid

inspiring instructors

"If I had to say one teacher, it would be Ms. Gonzalez. I had Ms. Gonzalez my freshman year, and I had her as my cooperating teacher in the ED Internship. She is an amazing teacher."

- A'Keyla Brown

"Mrs. Ramirez is my favorite teacher because she's funny, and she's like a mom to me."

- Cecilia Chavez

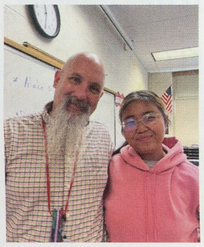
"Mrs. Vens is my favorite teacher because she is pretty lenient and understanding of her students, and sometimes, you can't find a teacher like that."

- Travonna Ferguson

"I like Mrs. Resch as a teacher because she makes learning and doing the assignments fun, and she's always thinking about what the students will like, and how to make them more engaging for us."

- Kaitlyn Long

"Mrs. Dennis is my favorite teacher because she has good energy every day, and she always has a smile on her face."
- Amiya Merrill

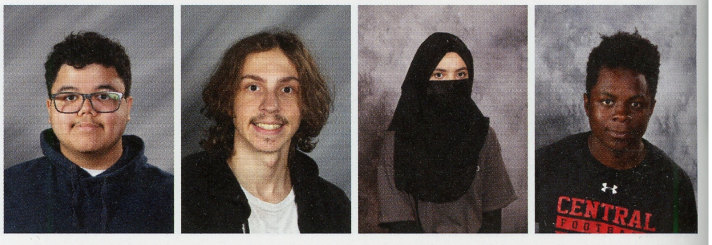


"I like all my teachers, but if I had to choose a favorite, I would choose Mr. LaRoche. He's really cool and fun, even though he's the only one that laughs at his own jokes sometimes, and he made me realize that I really like chemistry."

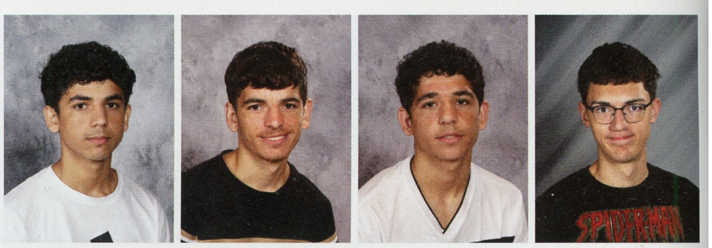
- Eh Eh Poe

Kyleigha Mejia
Kylie Melchi
Karina Mendoza
Amiya Merrill

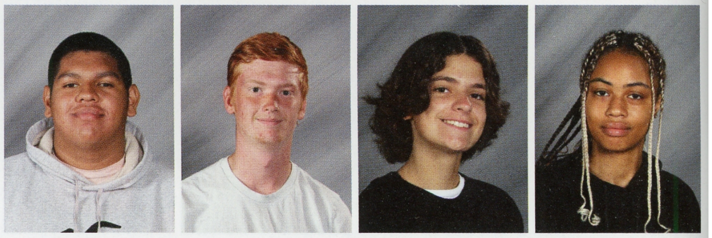
Marcel Merritt
Hailey Metzner
Abigayle Mildren
Gabrielle Mildren



Rilen Miller
Bruce Mills
Namira Mirzai
Sarive Mnyomoelwa

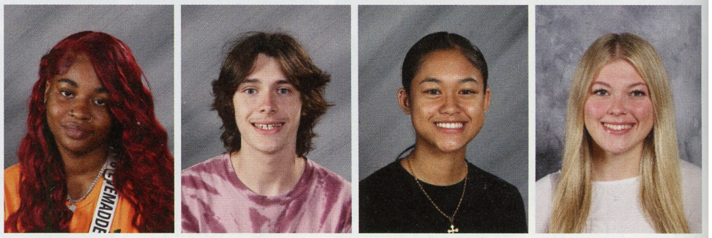


Abdul Mohammadi
Marhaba Mohammadi
Tawfiq Mohammadi
Justin Moline

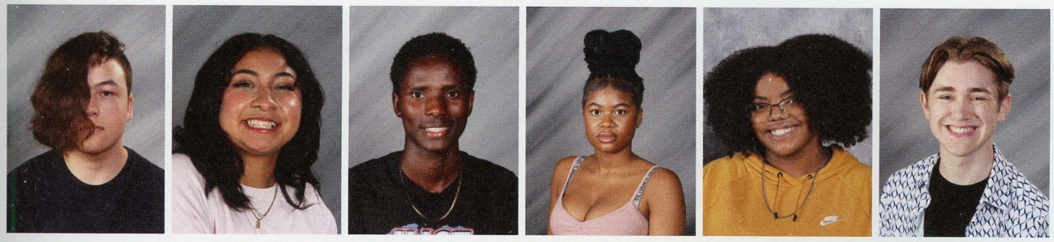


Jose Montoya-Hernandez
Caden Moore
Tobi Moravetz
Ja'Unique Morgan

Maddix Morrison
Gueliano Morrow-Criner
Sikuzani Mukucha
Anocled Munezeru



Jaliyah Murray
Elijah Nadeau
September Naing
Alexis Nelson

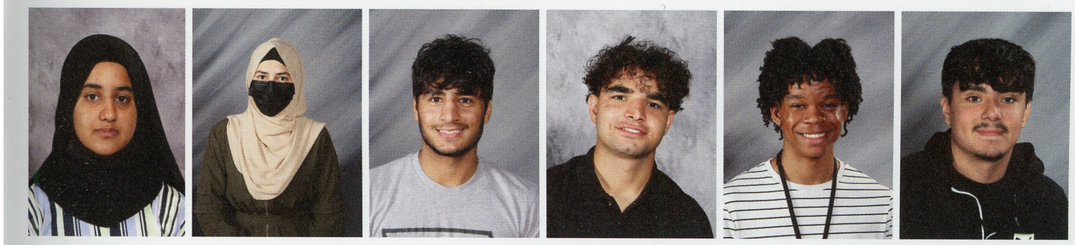


Landyn Nelson
Carla Nieto
Richard Niyonzima
Priscilla Nkonko
Angelina Nocentelli
Grant Nolan

Mohammad Nooristani
Morris Nunn
Emily O'Brien
Jake Osborn
Dariyus Osbourne
Abigail Owens

Dylan Panick
Antonio Parker
Tonecia Patrick
Toneka Patrick
Poe Paw
Harley Payney

Christian Pearson
Gladys Perez
Juana Perez Morales
Grayson Perion
Zee Phares
Eh Eh Poe



Kreshma Popalzi
Hangama Qubadi
Wazir Qubadi
Aimal Rahmani
Ja'siah Rainer
Pedro Ramirez

FROM SENIORS

To

FRESHMEN AGAIN

"I would like to attend Western Illinois University, and plan to study mechanical engineering. I chose Western because it looks really cool, it has a good engineering program, and a good lab."
- Amiya Merrill

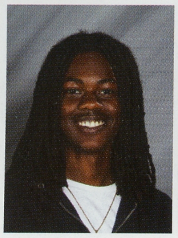
"I plan on going to Black Hawk College for two years. I'll only be going to Black Hawk to get my general EDs out of the way. Then, I plan on transferring to a 4 year college to become an orthodontist or orthodontist assistant. I am not completely sure, though. There are too many things I want to do in the future."
- Kaitlyn Long

"I have been planning on attending Augustana, or starting off at Black Hawk, and then transferring over to Augustana. My two top options for my major would be Psychology or something science based. I might try to find a major that has a bit of both, or major in one and minor in another. Black Hawk and Augustana are both really good colleges, and they're close to home."
- Eh Eh Poe

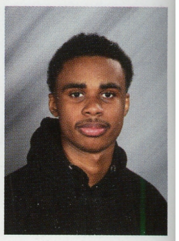
"I want to go to either Eastern Illinois or Northern Illinois to study elementary education and English. They both have very good education programs and opportunities. They also have good scholarships, as well as clubs and activities on campus!"
- Grayson Perion

"I would like to attend Illinois State University to study elementary education. I chose this school because it's not too far away from home, it's an amazing school, I fell in love with the campus, and I have had family members that have attended."
- A'Keyla Brown

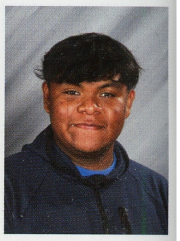
Dreshawn Randolph
Farzia Rashidi
Antonio Rayford
Lillian Reid
Breana Reymer
Layla Rice



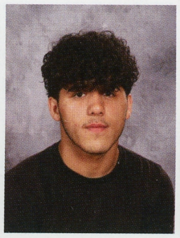
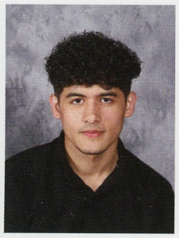
Lyric Rice
Temyiah Richardson
Daniel Rivera
Milca Robles
Linda Rose
Amir Ross



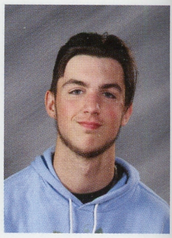
Autumn Rubingh
DeShawn Rucker
Nevaeh Rucker
Presley Ruffner
Amina Salim
Jose Salinas-Pelaez



Guadalupe Salinas Troche
Olivia Samuelson
Ku Say
Hanifullah Sekandari
Zarifullah Sekandari
Trinity Sepulveda

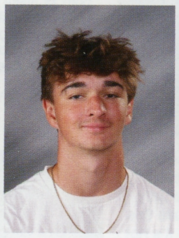



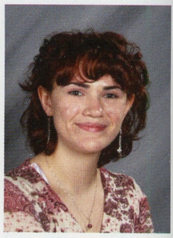
Khu Shee
Mylie Shook
Elizabeth Shorten
Beline Shukuru
Braden Smith
Logan Smith

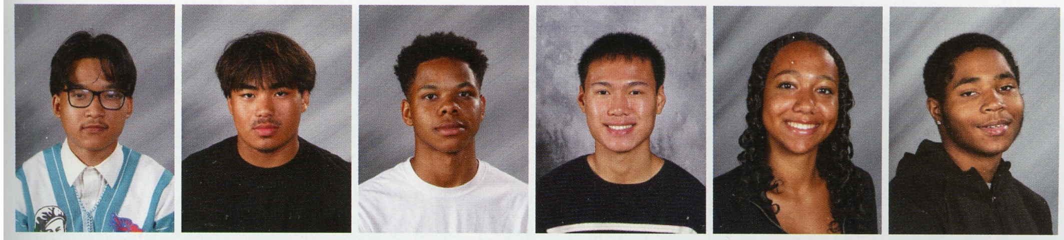


Santana Smith
Hsa Soe
Bahati Songolo
Omar Sosa
Logan Spawn
Ariyah Spoljoric

Tiffany St. Clair
Grant Stewart
Whitney Stivers
Merrick Stockwell
Skylar Stone
Sophia Stout



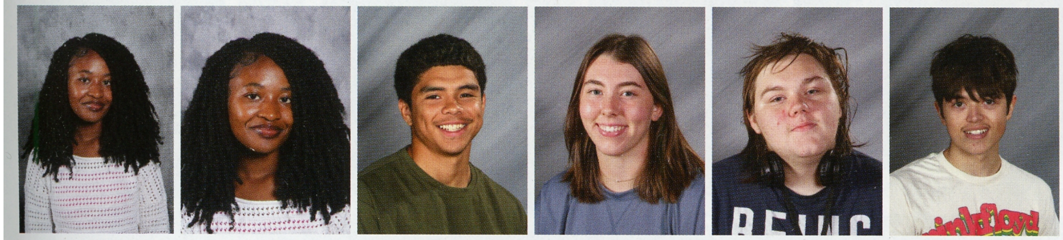




Eh Su
Eh Tahe Ta
Paul Tabb
Lucien Tarnow
Amya Tate
DaMarie Terrell

Ryleigh Terry
Cydney Thomas
Canyon Thompson
Jaida Thompson
Payton Thompson
Jeremiah Thornton

Kyle Thrap
Charlotte Toyi
Jose Valtierra-Gray
Kaleb Vancoillie
Christian Varela
Fred Venable



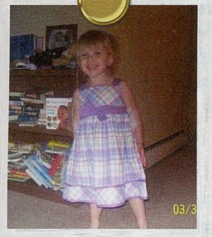
Riziki Venansia
Ruth Venansia
Elijah Venegas
Grace Vidmar
Carl Vogt
Josiah Wages

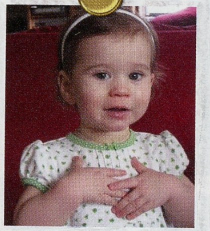
Davion Walker
Kevion Wallace
Alexander Walls
Jada Wells
Talaysia West
Tyler Whipple

DeAvion Williams
Kiana Williams
Bisochi Wilondja
Malingumu Wilondja
Ngolo Wilondja
Jaxon Womack

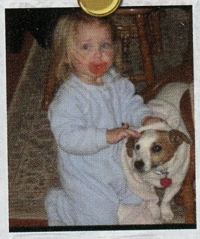
Chandra Woods
Davion Woodson
Jalaysia Wright
Noah Wright
Tway Ye
Miranda Zeroth

PEBBLES


Jozie Kerr


Elizabeth McCoy

A'rion Lonergan-Shinskia


Allison Drish

Madison Carroll

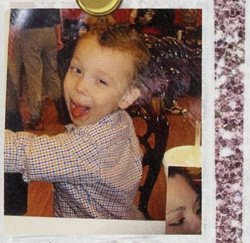
Kayla Mathews

Morris Nunn

Grace Vidmar

Canyon Thompson

Mylie Shook


Alex Churchill

Mia Hixson

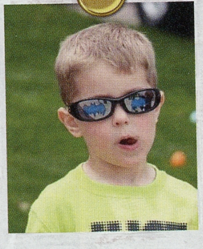
Leah Kitterman

NJ Nocentelli

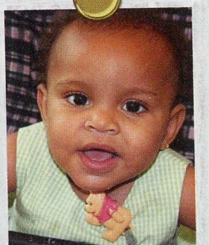
Olivia Samuelson

Lillian McDaniel

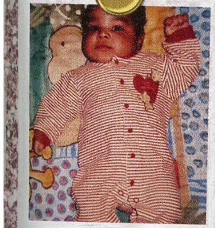
A'Keyla Brown

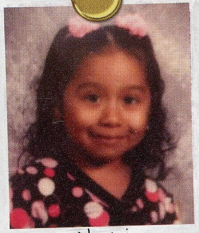

Chase Curry

Alexis Nelson


LaNina Daugherty

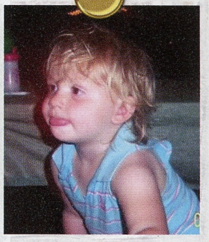
rocks


Namarion Coleman


Noemi Figueroa-Salinas

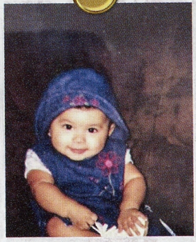
Antonio Rayford

Joslynn Henderson


Abbagale Lieber

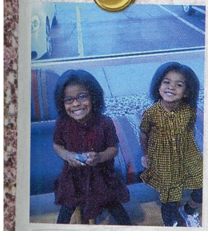
Whitney Stivers

Isabella Adner

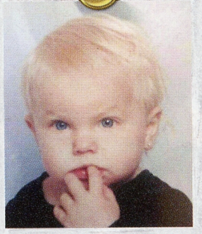

Riley Gray

Keyonte Farrow

Natalee DeVoss


Lyric & Layla Rice

Elizabeth Shorten


Chloe Harmon

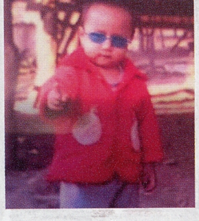
Aundrea Doss

Reagan Hawotte

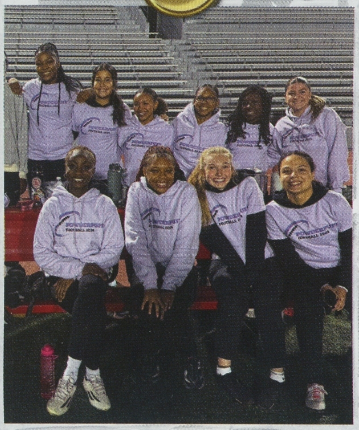
Thom Elliott

Taylor Chenoweth

September Naing


Ler Bwe

Cristina Aleman



"You get more with sugar than salt. Don't run around with the wrong crowds to fit into your age group because not everyone can be mature like you."
- Amine Gay

"Homecoming week was a fun time for me and my friends to create a lot of great memories of dressing up, going dress shopping, plans on who you're going with, and what you're doing before and after."
- Maya Decker

"Don't ever give up, and believe in yourself, even when nobody else does."
- Caleb Woods-Stewart

our JUNIOR YEAR

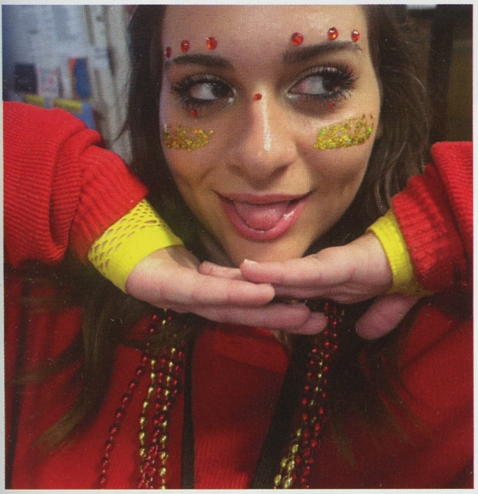
Junior year is full of new experiences and more opportunities. In this year, students have big academic responsibilities, most of which include harder AP classes, and especially the ACT, which can determine future decisions. Taking specific classes relating to the future allows students to meet new people and prepare them for possible higher learning. As new upperclassmen, juniors take on more responsibility and become more mature. As a result, they are able to attend prom, and take on the Powderpuff football and volleyball games. Many athletes are able to claim a spot on Varsity and obtain leadership roles. It may feel like just another year, but this is an important building block of their high school stories.

"Keep a positive mindset, no matter what, because at the end of the day, to get through rough patches, being positive is how you will overcome them. Do not let other people influence you. Be yourself. No matter how hard an assignment or test/ exam is, never give up, and keep going because at the end of the day, your effort now is what will help you strive in the future. Take school very seriously, and don't slack because that work will rack up very quickly, and just put more stress on your back than needed. Stay positive, be positive, because that positive mindset will get you farther than expected."

- Charisma Pulliam

"I'd tell myself to write down notes, drink more water, and take less risks."
- Lucas McCall

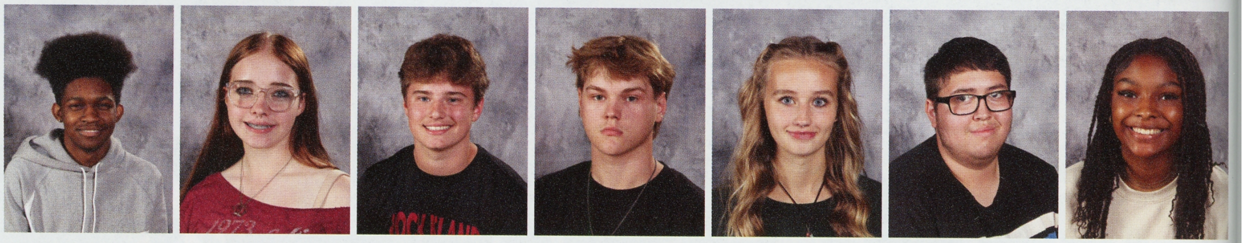
"Some advice I would give for next year's juniors is to stay on top of your work and never slack off. Finish your work before doing anything else."
- Natalia Dominguez



Martha Abuke
Jennifer Aguilar
Pedro Alba-Garcia
Kampbell Allen
Alexandra Alva
Versacie Anderson
Alex Arredondo

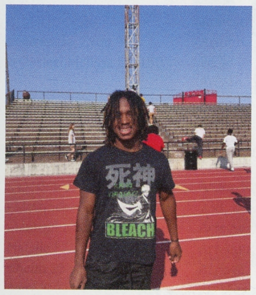
Malaysia
Arrington-Mentria
Laura Avalos
Annabelle Avegnon
Moe Moe Aye
Jean Babwiriza
Wilondja Bahininwa
Ashley Balcazar

Gavin Barber-Morgan
Lauryn Barker
Cooper Barnes
Dylan Barrell
Kaitlynn Bartelt
Logan Behrens
Ka'Zaria Bell

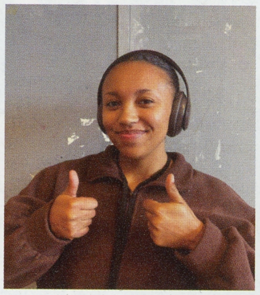


Mason Bell
Keni Bennett
Brock Berger
Tiffany Billings
Elaina Biswell
Eric Biswell
Moise Bizimana

GOLD MEDAL MOMENTS

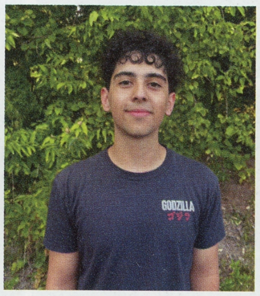


"My favorite Olympic event is the 4x1, and my favorite athlete is either Quincy Hall or Christian Coleman. I love this event because it could look like someone's losing in the 2nd leg, and then, someone comes back the 4th leg."
- George Tate



"My favorite Olympic sport is figure skating. It's a very unique sport that's not very common around here. It takes a different level of talent to do those types of moves on ice."
- Aubrey Doss

"My favorite Olympian is definitely Stephen Nedoroscik. He is the pommel horse specialist on the US Men's Gymnastics Team, and he led the team to a bronze medal this year. He seems like such a sweet person, and I'm so excited to watch him on *Dancing With the Stars*."
- Gracelynn Veys



"I would say my favorite sport in the Olympics would have to be weightlifting. Weightlifting is a big passion of mine, and seeing it at a professional level always amazes me, and even teaches me a thing or two about weightlifting."
- Angelo Mojica

"My favorite Olympian is probably gymnast, Simone Biles because she proves every year that the color barrier in sports cannot bring anyone down."
- Laura Avalos

Samuel Bizimana
Ameerius Blaser
Payton Boemecke
KaiLee Bogan
Jahmya Bogguess
Isabella Bostic
Vanessa Boswell

Landyn Bowker
R'Eannah Bowker
Amauri Bradley
Da Nai Jah Bragg
Ayden Braud
Jada Brown
Kamrhen Bryant

Abriana Bullock
Olivia Bunch
Gage Bundy
Alexander Burgmeier
Shila Burns
Rihanna Butler
Roda Butunga

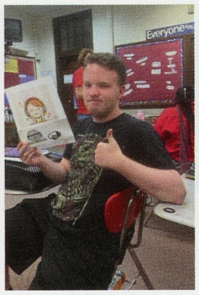
Exayra Calderon
Alonnah Calhoun
Thalia Camacho
Layla Campbell
Ryder Carothers
Iphe Carr
Keegan Carroll

POPPIN' PLAYLIST

"Chappell Roan- because of how upbeat it is. It's super catchy, light, and fun. It's great for when I need to lock in for a game or doing daily stuff."
- Yaretzi Jimenez

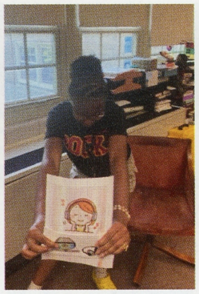
"Noah Kahan- it's one of my favorites because it's an upbeat happy song, where you can dance and sing, too!"

- Avery Hanson



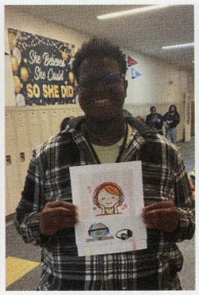
"Lil Wayne- it's nostalgic and the beat is great."

- Braden Gilliland



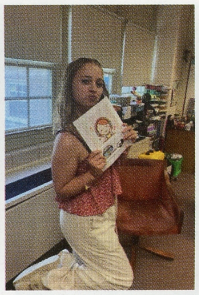
"Willow Smith- because it talks about emotions too big to comprehend."

- Malaysia Arrington-Mentria



"The Smiths- I like their song because it's a classic 80's song."

- Merrell Mars



"Frank Ocean- I love his song because it gives me a sense of calm."

- Gracie James

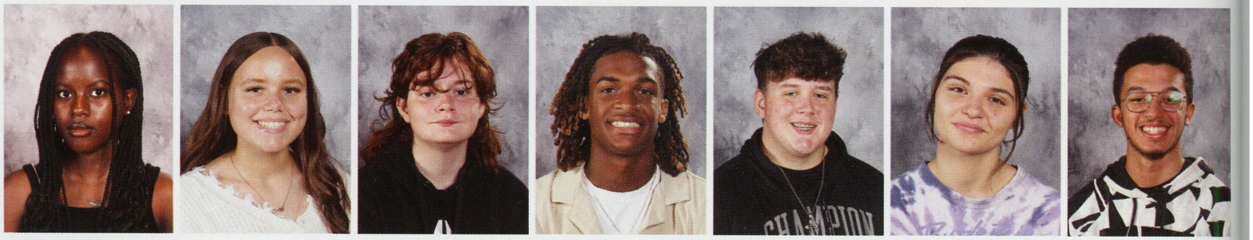
"Frank Ocean- I can relate to the lyrics, and the beat is good and calming."

- Tatiana Castillo-Cisneros

LaRayah Carroll
Marco Castaneda
Marissa Castaneda
Tatiana Castillo-Cisneros
Azucena Chavez
Uriah Chenoweth
Alex Clarke

Devyn Clay
Alexander Clemann
Xavior Colclasure
Lincoln Conger
D'Milo Conner
Teegan Conwell
Alice Cook

Bayisenge Cornelio
Kylie Cortez
Lily Coulter
Jaylin Craig
Lucas Crandall
Isabella Crane
Trey Cunningham

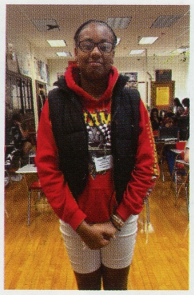


Makayla Curry
Irankunda Darilene
Andrew Davis
Jacquelyn Davis
Kylan Davis
Adam Dawkins
Imajah Day

NEWLY Upperclassmen

"It's not as exciting as I'd thought it would be."

- Lucas McCall

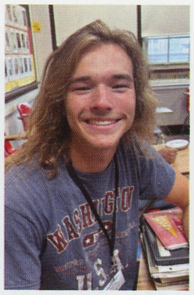


"I feel like people look up to me, and that's a big transition, and that's a little pressure."

- Gabe Mahn

"I don't think it's that much different, but it's weird to think high school's almost over."

- AJ Stewart

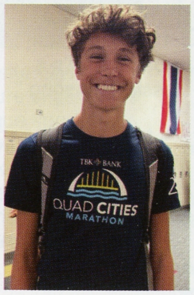


"It doesn't feel different, but there are more opportunities for classes."

- Isaac Perez

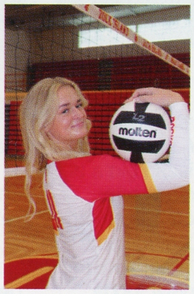
"Being a Junior is complicated, but it's only the curriculum."

- Malaysia Arrington



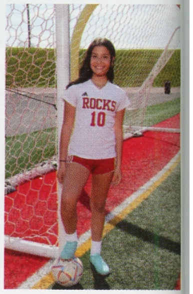
"It feels good to participate in more stuff."

- Ulana Richey



"It feels weird, and it doesn't really feel real."

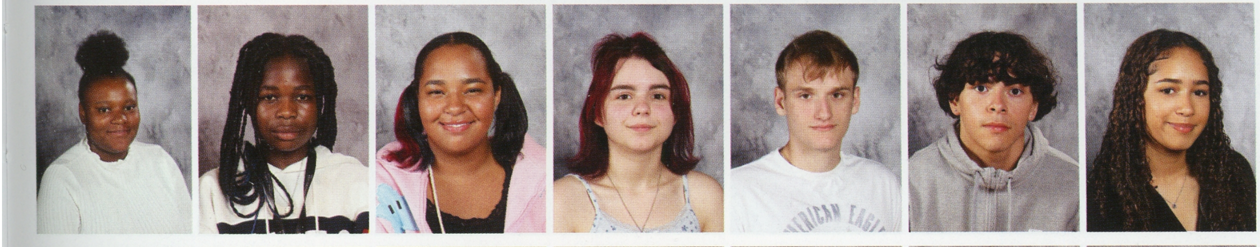
-Henry Mass



Maya Decker
Payton Decker
Mariah Deemer
Jacob Delf
Delaney Dempsey
Himari Dennis
Honatsu Dennis

Abigail Dillard
Korie Dillard
Jack Docherty
Mason Dohogne
Natalia Dominguez
Aubrey Doss
Youssif Doukoure

Nevaeh Dove
Allie Downing
Parker Drish
Harmony
Dunbar-Franklin
Antoine Ebambwe
Patient
Ebengo-Mchumbe
Admyar Eddings



Ronchelle Edwards
Naomi Emile
Justice English
Lola Ennis
Bryce Ericson
Cruz Escamilla
Jersey Everson

Dominic Eygabroad
Aria Faqiri
Shoaib Faqiri
Quinn Feigley
Michael Fentress
Riziki Fikiri
Camryn Fineran

I CAN'T LIVE W/OUT...

"Headphones to be able to focus on my task ahead of me."

- Keni Bennett

"A book, because I love reading when I have free time."

- Aubrey Doss

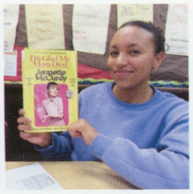
"I can't live without my phone (mainly because of music). I love music!"
- Shee Ler Moo

"My friends, because my social life keeps me alive."

- Katherine Gummow

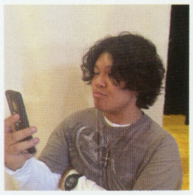
"FOOD & SNACKS."

- Eh Soe



"Sticky notes, because I always forget things, so I need to make note of them."

- Avery Hanson



"My water bottle because Hydrate or Diedrate!"

- Quinn Feigley

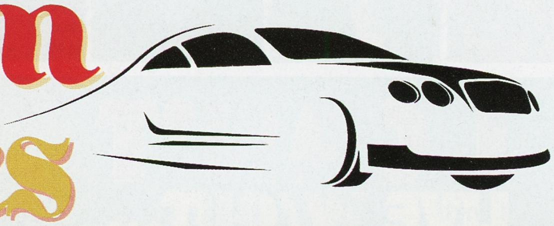
Nolan Fonteyne
Tauren Foster
Helen Franco
Kasee Frantz
Mason Fry
Ladavia Funches
Zamaria Gadlin

Ava Gallina
Jose Garcia
Maricela Garcia
Griffin Garro
Sophia Garza
Amine Gay
Millie Gidaszewski

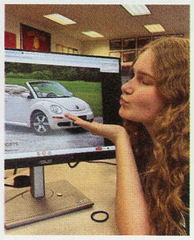
Braden Gilliland
Arakaza Godstone
Abraham Gomez
Isaac Gomez
Matteo Gomez
Conner Goodwin
Brett Grypp

Ximena Guerrero
Katherine Gummow
Tamina Gunasheva
Francesca Guyette
Emilio Guzman
Nyasia Hall
Trevor Hamburg

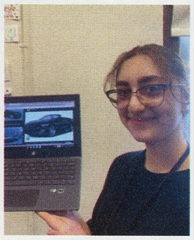
Dream Drives



"My dream car is a Mustang GT. I like it because of the way the engine sounds."
- Yaretzi Jimenez



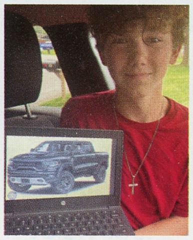
"My dream car is definitely a 2010 Volkswagen Beetle, preferably a cream colored one. They're so cute, and I love Volkswagen Bugs."
- Gracelynn Veys



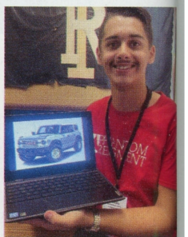
"My dream car is a black convertible Mustang because it looks so cool."
- Tamina Gunasheva

"My dream car is a hot pink Volkswagen Beetle. I love the color pink, and these cars are so cute and very girly, which is very fitting to me!"
- Francesca Guyette

"My dream car is a light pink Ford Bronco because it's such a cute color, and is really unique."
- Audrey Long



"My dream car is the 2024 RAM TRX 1500 because it's a reliable truck for family, and it's heavy duty."
- Eric Biswell



"My dream car is the Ford Bronco because I love the outdoors and going camping, and this car is reliable for back road driving."
- Tyler Whitten

Korde Hamilton
Marvin Hamilton
Marvion Hamilton
William Hampton
Zachary Hansen
Avery Hanson
Cameron Hardy

Mason Harl
Olivia Harms
Kendall Harrell
Londyn Harris
Darrionna Harrison
Tyler Harvey
Zaynah Hassan

Aerius Hayes
Maximilian Hemphill-Salaverria
Cheyan Hiatt
Elijah Hodgett
Naasir Horne
Hunter Hoteling
Adalyne Houston

John Htoo
Kler Paw Boe Htoo
Nelson Htoo
Ni Tha Blay Htoo
Mallory Hudnall
Temar Hudson
Ethan Ignatius

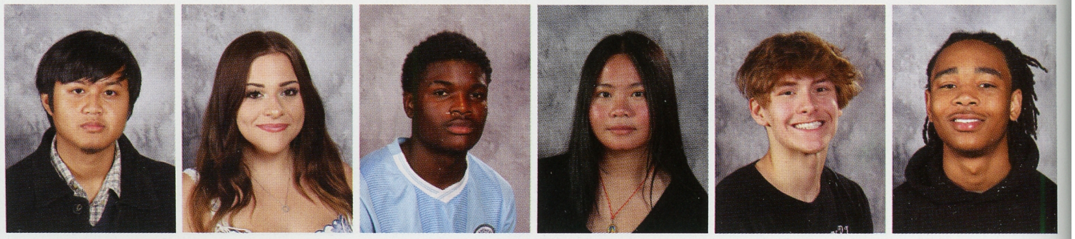
Bernice Irakoze
BienVenue Iteriteka
Blessing Jabbah
Aniyah Jackson
Hailey Jacobs
Gracie James
Chase Jared

Isilael Jemus
Alexandro Jimenez
Yaretzi Jimenez
AJ Johnson
Samuel Johnson
Zada Johnson
Emmah Jones

Joshua Jones
Gabriella Keel
Matthias Kelley
Fatuma Keya
Karshma Khalaqi
Honesty Kirk
Jenna Kitterman

Arafati Kizungu
Kessy Kizungu
Owen Klapperich
Chloe Lambert
DeNym Langford
Daniella Leahy
JaMarrie Lee

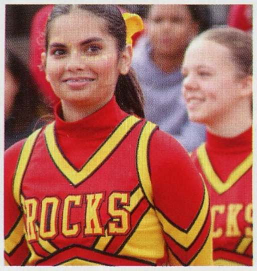
Sell Lei
Kaleigha Lemmon
Agelix Leon
Su Su Let
Collin LeVan
Devell Lewis



ROCKY PRIDE

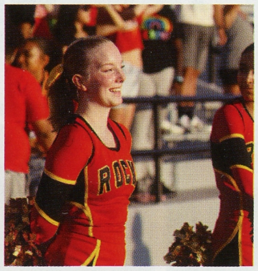
ROARING WITH SPIRIT, SOARING WITH SUCCESS

"Track and Field has allowed me to show my love towards the school by working hard to earn points for our team!"
- Maya Decker



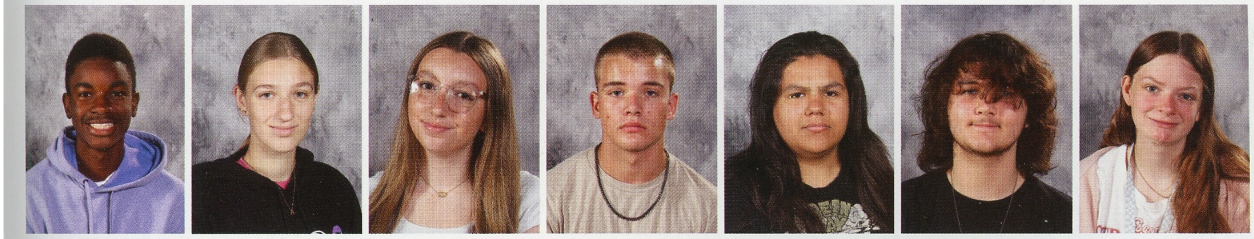
"Cheer. Cheer has really taken me out of my comfort zone, and I love it."
- Emily Perkins

"Cheerleading has definitely been the way I've gotten most involved at school. The cheerleaders are always advocating for school spirit and positivity, and I love being a part of it!"
- Vanessa Boswell

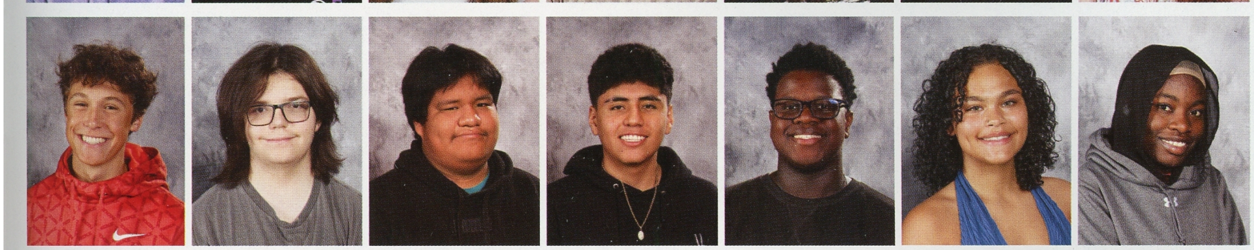


"Definitely being on the Rocky Cheer Team helps show Rocky pride because I get to cheer on our sports."
- Alexa Massie

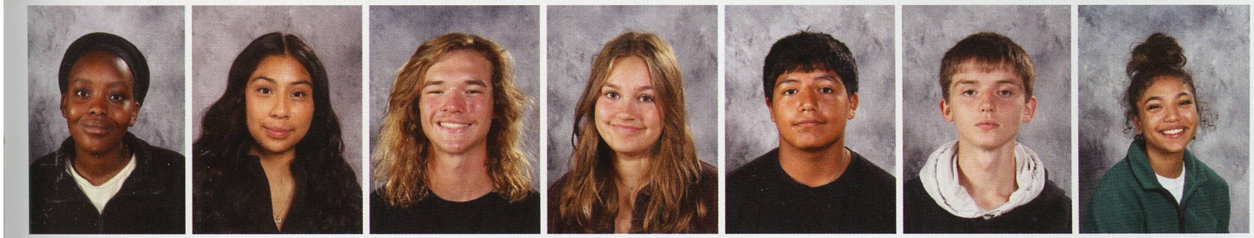
"Something I've gotten involved in at Rocky is sports, and that shows my Rocky pride because I take ownership into my school, and want us to succeed."
- Temar Hudson



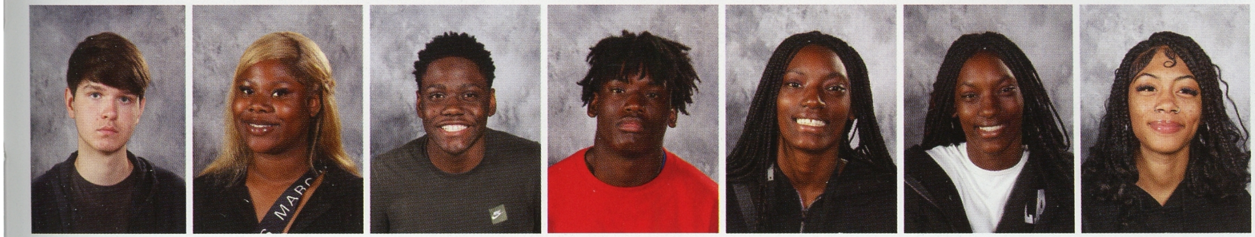
Elijah Linton
Kylee Littlejohn
Audrey Long
Quinton Long
Sage Lucio
Jack Luebbers
Rebecca Maess



Gabriel Mahn
Dax Manary
Daniel Marceleno
Aaron Marfetan
Flores
Merrell Mars
Kendra Marshall
Fatina Martin



Nahimana Martin
Yazmyne Martinez
Henry Mass
Alayna Mathews
Julyan Mayares
Lucas McCall
Jaelyn McClay

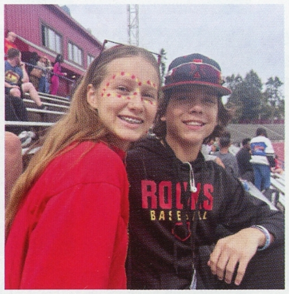


Isaac McConchie
Jermariona McCray
Ian McGowan
Julian McGowan
Justice McGowan
Justine McGowan
June McNeal

JUNIOR *jobs*

"I work at Burger King. I like that my hours are really good and flexible, and it's a pretty easy job."

- Olivia Seidlitz



"I work at Awake, and I really like my job since I get to make myself drinks, and work with a really good staff."

- Jenna Kitterman

"I work at Generations, and I like how all the old people are really nice to me, and since I work at the front desk, I get to finish my homework, when it's not busy."

- Allie Downing

"I work at Arthur's. I enjoy my job because I get good hours, and the food is really good."

- Abigail Dillard

"I work at McDonald's, and I like that it's not too difficult, and I get paid well."

- Merrell Mars

Isaiah McRae
Jack Meade
Viridiana
Medrano-Mendoza
Joseph Mejia
Michael Millbrook
Aviana Miller
Adrian Mills

Jaydah Mitchell
Kylan Mitchell
Nova Moa
Angelo Mojica
Bu Moo
Hae Moo
Ka Moo

Shee Ler Moo
Calvin Moore
Evan Moore
Kalista Moran
Ja'Mariya Morgan
Eric Mumma
Thereza Mustafa

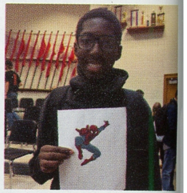
Jean-Luc Mutambala
Easter Naing
Matendo Natani
Mwamini Neema
Za'Veon Nelson
Jackson Nesseler
Imari Nettles

YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHERO!

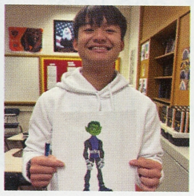
"My favorite is Beast Boy because of the comedic effect, and he has a cool life."
- John Htoo

"Spider-Man is my favorite superhero. He is a relatable character, and has super cool powers."
- Delaney Dempsey

"My favorite superhero is Wolverine because he is super strong and powerful."
- Elaina Biswell



"My favorite superhero is Spider-Man. He just wants to help people, and that is probably why he is a superhero."
- Lauryn Barker



"My favorite superhero is Batman because I grew up watching all the Batman movies."
- Olivia Bunch

"My favorite superhero is Beast Boy. I really like *Teen Titans Go*, and he is a pretty funny character. He is the goofiest of the 5 main characters in the show."
- Madeline Olson

"My favorite superhero is Spider-Man because, no matter what, he always gets back up."
- Youssif Doukoure

Olivia Nevarez
Christer New
Cody Newberry

Andrew Niemi
Jayce Nissen
Jake Nixon

Mugisha Niyonzima
Gul Nooristani
Chance Nyirakamana

Olivier Obedi
Claire O'Hern-Maidak
Madeline Olson

Jackson Otten
Kaylee Owens
Gage Painter

Addison Pannell
Marwa Parhar
Chance Parrish

Kale Pattison
Naw K'Lu Paw
Taylor Pedigo

JUNIOR JOBS

"I work at Huckleberry's Pizza and Calzones as a cook. One of my favorite parts of my job is getting to work with my co-workers, and serving people in our community!"

- Vanessa Boswell

"I work in the Starbucks at Target. My favorite part of working there is making the cute drinks."

- Liv Riecke

"I work at Arthur's Deli. My favorite part of working there is mixing the soups and pasta to make them look pretty."

- EJ Mumma

"I'm a barista at Awake Coffee Company. Creating bonds while working with people I never would've met otherwise. I have met some of my closest friends while working at Awake."
- Katie Voss

"I work at Whitey's, and my favorite part is that they are very flexible, and I get to work with my friends!"
- Millie Gidaszewski

"I am a coach for the Rock Island Volleyball PEP program. I coach middle schoolers getting ready to come into high school next year."
- AJ Stewart

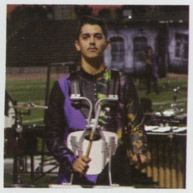
Junior MUSICIANS

"I play clarinet. My favorite part of band has to be the community. The other students in band make it really fun and amazing. I wanted to do band because my older sibling did it, and it sounded fun!"
- Zaynah Hassan

"I play violin and viola. My favorite part of Orchestra has to be Christmas season because I like the music during that time. I joined because my sister inspired me to learn how to play."
- EJ Mumma

"I play trumpet and melophone. My favorite part of band is hearing all the instruments come together. I joined band because I was inspired by the marching band my 6th grade year during Preview Night."
- Chister New

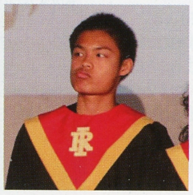
"I sing Alto. My favorite part of choir is chamber closeness. By Christmas season, everyone basically becomes family. The experiences and opportunities are special because of the people in choir."
- Eh Soe



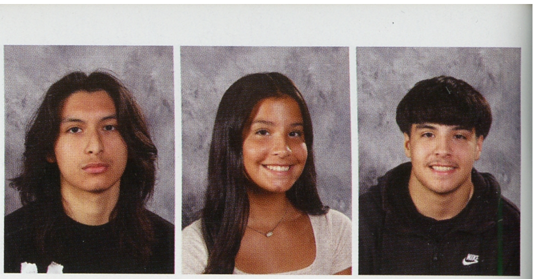
"I play percussion and flute. I love being able to play my instrument every day, with different people, and overall, improving myself. I joined band by mistake. When I got my instrument in 6th grade, I was not interested, but once I got into high school, it became my passion."
- Tyler Whitten

"I sing alto. My favorite part of Chamber is all the gigs we go on, doing something I love, and giving people joy makes me happy. I joined choir because Voigt said I should. I have not regretted my choice since."
- Layla Campbell

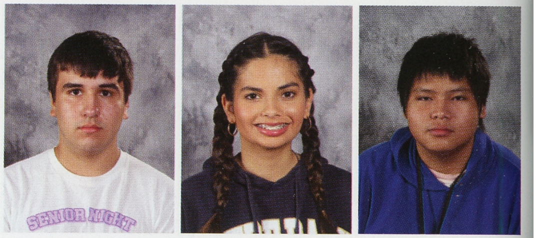
"I play the violin, My favorite part of Orchestra is to meet new people. I joined because my family is very deeply in depth with music, so I wanted to join."
- Eh Nay Soe



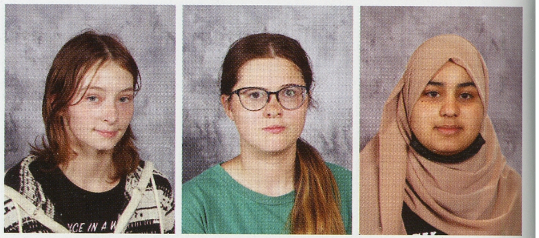
"I sing Tenor. I joined choir because I felt like it was more natural for me than playing an instrument. My favorite part of choir is expressing myself through singing, and I really like singing."
- Nelson Htoo



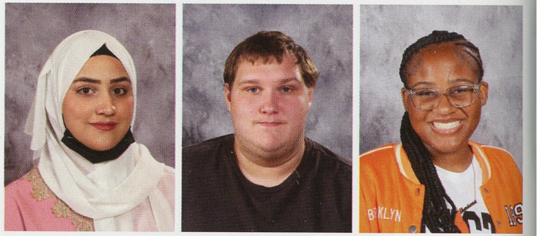
Alexis Perez
Isaac Perez
Jacob Perez



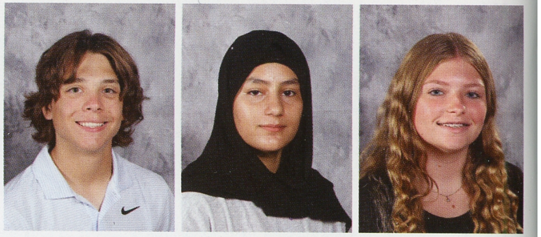
Lincoln Perez
Emily Perkins
Ni Pet



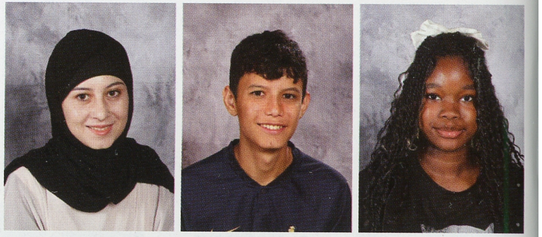
Brianna Pladna
Hope Pohl
Malika Popalzi



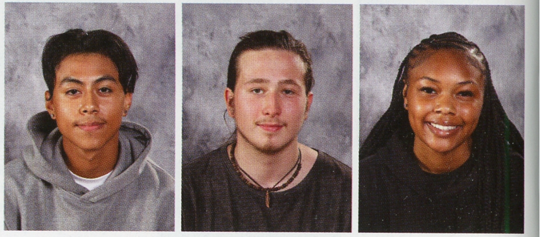
Shaista Popalzi
Brayden Prather
Charisma Pulliam



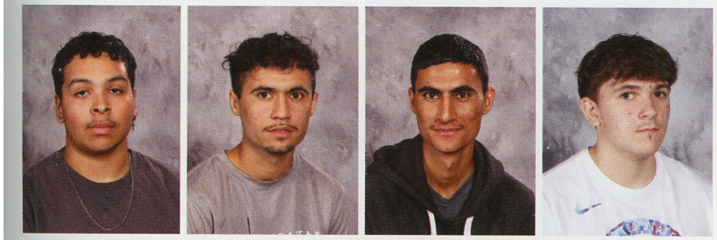
Josiah Putnam
Fazila Qubadi
Alissa Quinlan



Fahima Rahimi
Mohammad Rahimi
Ja'liyah Rainer



Jose Ramirez
Angel Ramsey
A Miyah Randolph

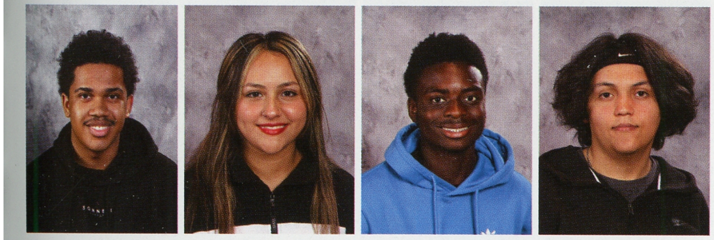


Manuel Rangel
Naimatullan Rashidi
Ramesh Rashidi
Evan Regur

Marley Reyes
Benjamin Richardson
Ulana Richey
Maria Rico-Garcia

Olivia Riecke
Adrian Rincon
Amaiah Robinson
Matthew Roessler

Kelis Rogers
Karina
Romero-Escamilla
Ameena Ross
Esaias Rucker-May



Brandon Rush
Joanna Salas
Ramadhan Sango
Paulo San Martin

Aqilah Saputri
Poe Lie Htoo Say
Jayden Schanfish
Austin Schwab

Cameroun Sefu
Olivia Seidlitz
Nawidullah Sekandari
Ethan Shadden

JUNIOR *journeys*

500 ASSISTS & 1ST TEAM ALL CONFERENCE

"I'm so thankful for my teammates and coaches who supported me throughout the season. I wouldn't have been able to reach these milestones without them."

- AJ Stewart, VOLLEYBALL

PRESENTER AT A THESPY EVENT AT THEATRE FEST

"Presenting at Theatre Fest this year was an amazing experience! Not only did I get to challenge myself, I got to represent my school while doing it."

- Keni Bennett, THEATRE

TWO TIME STATE QUALIFIER

"I was really happy to go to State again this year. Qualifying with a teammate made it so much more fun, and I'm really thankful for great teammates, who always push me to get better, and to qualify."

- Gabe Mahn, CROSS COUNTRY

TWO TIME ALL-STATE QUALIFIER

"It is a really big honor to be representing my school on the state level with my singing ability."

- Tyler Whitten, CHAMBER CHOIR

RECRUITING THE ROCKS

Ulana Richey
"I have many options for college that I'm thinking about and would like to go to, and my recruiting process is just to visit colleges that I'm interested in, and just to do my best in the sport, so I have many college options to go to."

Temar Hudson
"For college, I want to get recruited to either Penn State or North Carolina for football. Even though I'm a junior, I want to go on visits and be productive, so I can be seen for all my hard work I've put in my entire life."

Ka'Zaria Bell
"A few popular ones I have in mind are ISU and Alcorn State to play basketball. A lot of the process is talking to the coaches and sending schedules to possibly plan visits."

Lincoln Perez
"I want to get recruited to the University of Colorado at Boulder for cheer. My process is just balancing school and cheer to succeed academically, but also physically."

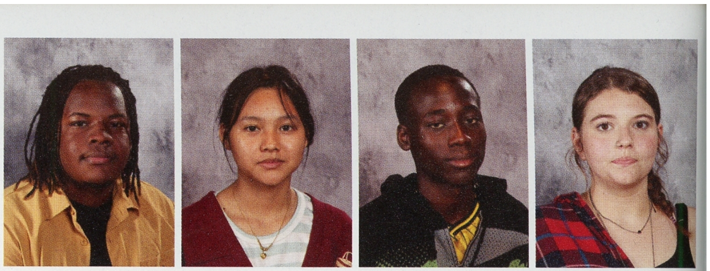
Avery Hanson
"I want to go the University of Iowa. Since my mom works at Scott Community, I will be attending there, then after a couple of years, I want to go to Iowa for cheer."

Avian Thomas
"I want to get recruited to the University of Kentucky for either football or basketball. My process is making my film/ highlight real for both sports, and sending it to coaches on the staff. Also, being All-Conference in both sports, so they know I'm capable of being a talented athlete."

Malaysia Arrington
"I would like to attend Oklahoma State for softball or cheer. The process is dedicating my time to my sports, being the best version of myself on and off the field, and staying focused."

George Tate
"I would like to go to Central College in Iowa for either track or wrestling. It's a D3 school, but it's one of the best in the nation, and I like their majors. My process for recruitment is just try and stand out from others, trying to apply and meet the standards of the college, and go beyond those standards."

Earraya Williams
"I want to go to Jackson State for track and field. My process for getting accepted is to speak to the coaches and maybe if there's a camp, I'll try and get to them."



Jaquay Shelton
Ywa Hay Sher
Maese Shukuru
Ashley Simmons

Hezekiah Slater
Cardreyon Smith
Levi Smith
Makenzie Smith

Olivia Smith
Eh Dah Soe
Eh Doh Soe
Eh Nay Soe

Hai Nay Soe
Isabella Spurgetis
Jackson St Amand
Hailey Stanley

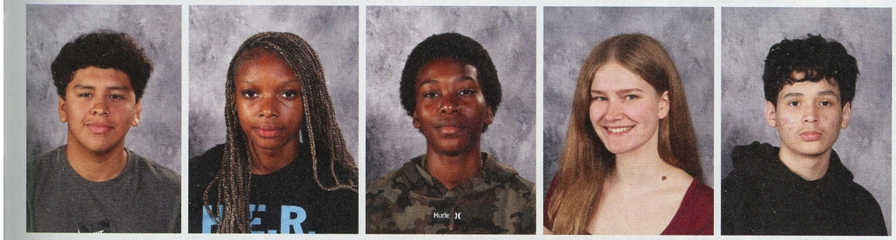
Sylvya Steele
Ingabire Stella
Abigail Stewart
Xavier Stewart

Nicole Stokes
Brenden Strader
Chukiwa Sudi
Sidney Sullivan

Kaiden Swanson
Mia Sweborg
Paloma Tapia
Montoya
George Tate

Avian Thomas
Tierra Thomas
Yazmin Tinoco Ruiz
Jaiden Tot
Nishimwe Tresor

Vianca Tuominen
Pawlik
Hayden Vance
Alex VandeWalle
Alaysha Veasey
George Velazquez



Adrian Venegas
Honesty Vesey
Knowledge Vesey
Gracelynn Veys
Martin Villaseca

Christian Villasenor
Katelyn Voss
Averi Vroman
Aimee Vumiliya

Eh Wah
Tha Eh Wah
Josie Walline
Isaiah Walls

Parrish
Whitacre-Guinn
Tyler Whitten
Earraya Williams
Xavier Willoughby

Bella Wilson
Noah Witmer
Cole York
Lawson Zulu

Junior
SNOW DAYS

"I like it because it's fun to play in. My favorite snow day activities are building a snowman and making hot chocolate."

- Teegan Conwell

"I like the snow because it makes everything outside look pretty. My favorite activity is to have snowball fights with my brother."

- LaRayah Carroll

"I like the snow because it's so pretty, especially at night, and then, my favorite winter activity is going out and playing in the snow."

- Tamina Gunasheva

"I actually like the snow a lot. I like how pretty it is, and how much fun you have with it. My favorite snow day activity is sitting inside the warm house, drinking hot chocolate."

- Elijah Linton

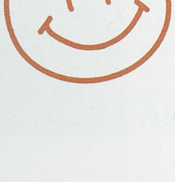
"I show my Rocky pride by participating in Spirit Week and showing up for our events!"
- Alaina Bonja

"Hakuna Matata. Do not worry so much over small things."
- Madelyn Schrempf

"Make sure to
stay on track and finish
your assignments on
time!"
- Lirely Mendoza

our SOPHOMORE YEAR

Being a sophomore means you start your year familiar with all of Rocky's traditions, and you get to help out the incoming freshmen. The most anticipated part of sophomore year is finally being able to start driving, taking higher level classes, and having the freedom to take more fun classes. This year means you are one step closer to deciding what to do after high school, and making harder life decisions, but the fun part is going through all of i with friends, and making new memories.



"Step outside of your comfort zone and stop trying to fit in. Yeah, it may be hard, even scary. But, you will be much happier with the people you meet along the way."

- Madz Hendrickx

"Get involved. You only live once, and this is your only time to be in high school. Live it to the fullest."
- Demi Robinson

"I show my Rocky Pride by helping out in the community, if needed."
- Siryi Amaya

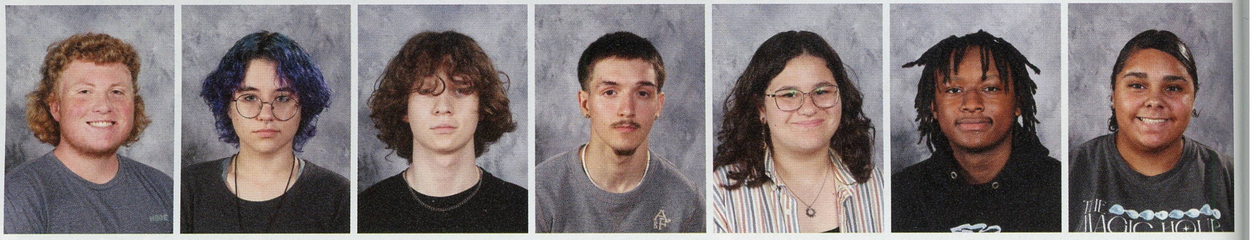
ROCK ISLAND
16
ROCK ISLAND
10
ROCKS

Angelina Abarca
Hassan Adamou
Daenika Adams
Jacoby Adams
Jose Aguilar
Nicolas Aguilar
Dreanna Akins

Alejandro Garcia
Jaylin Allison
Isabella Almanza
Adonis Alvarez
Samantha Amaya
Nathan Anderson
Aab Aoci

Romahn Armstrong
Elijah Arps
Victor Arredondo
Lopez
Jarexi Arreguin
Izabella Ashby
Abanga Asukulu
Jennifer Atiaja Toro

Ar'eon Barker
Elliot Batz
Dylan Baumbach
Isabella Bautista
Matthew Bay
Hudson Behrens
Maleena Belk



Shane Bigelow
Lily Bleuer
Logan Bleuer
Josias Bolinger
Alaina Bonja
D'Shon Bovan
Nataliyah Boyd

ADVANCING AHEAD

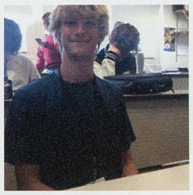
in sophomore year

"It's very stressful. The teacher assigns a lot of work, and I regret taking AP History. I wish I would've taken regular U.S. History."

- Nyasia Deemer

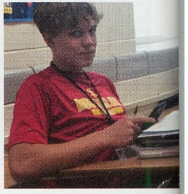
"It's really hard. We have a lot more homework. Reading the textbook is also really difficult. AP science is easier than AP History."

- Liam Muir



"AP History motivates me to become a better person. Even though it's hard, it keeps me going, and it keeps me prepared for the future."

- Giryah Williams

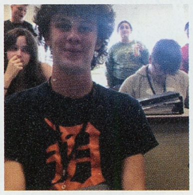


"AP classes were a lot more challenging than what I was expecting. I didn't think it was going to be that many assignments and reading. The tests are also really difficult, but I think I'll get the handle of it, eventually."

- Daysia Gray

"It's a challenging class, but it's very fun, and I feel like I'm getting smarter, and I feel like I'm smarter every day. I'm learning a lot of knowledge. It took some time to adjust, but now I'm glad I took it."

- Allison Schweickhardt



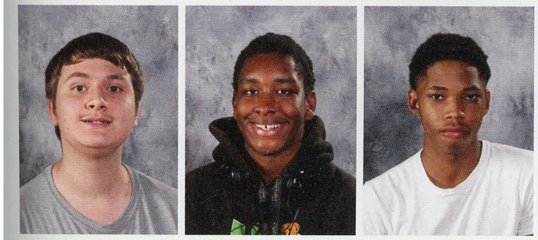
"It's a lot more work than any other class. There's gonna be work outside of class. It's probably good for preparing you for college. It's also a lot of reading. Don't let the work pile up."

- Nathan Pothoven

"It's pretty hard, goes fast, takes a lot out of me in 1st hour. It gives me headaches after tests. I would recommend it, if you're trying to go to college."

- Trevor Nunn

Jaeden Breiby-Detert
John Britton
Jayden Brooks

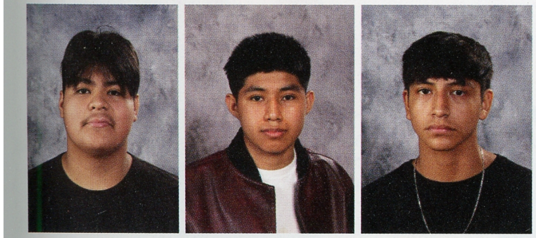


Devyn Brown
Jeremiah Brown
Rodrick Brown

Tamira Brumfield
Marely Bunch
Chase Bunge

Caligina Burton-Botten
Jacques Byabele
Justice Cade

Muriel Callaway
Tiffanie Campbell
Kimira Carter



Anthony Castaneda
Dany Cedillo
Raymundo Angel Cervantes

Myles Chaney
Ian Chavez
Samantha Chovanec

SOPOHMORE Sweets!

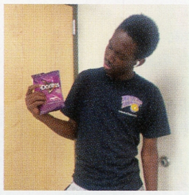
"My favorite snack are Doritos because, they're cheesy and crunchy."
- Ava Donaldson

"My favorite snack is Checkers' fries because they are delicious and crunchy."
- Ninah Payney

"I like cookies because they are fresh and gooey, and the chocolate chips melt in your mouth."
- Teresa Rogers

"My favorite snack is grapes because grapes are great."
- Cameron Foley

"Whitey's is my favorite snack because they have a variety of flavors you can choose!"
- Christina Min



"Doritos are my favorite snack because the flavors are good, and they are a good brand."
- Jacques Byabele

"I like Airheads because they are very sour and chewy, and the different colors taste like different flavors."
- Jomi McNeal

"My favorite snack is rice because rice is a delicacy in Asian culture, and I can't get tired of it."
- Johnathan Soe

Competition with Caffeine

"My favorite coffee place is Iconic, and my favorite thing to get there is probably the Mac-Attack."
- Emily McCall

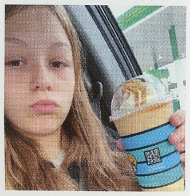
"My favorite place to get energy drinks is Atomic, and my favorite drink from there is Phoenix."
- Sydnee Moseley

"I like Atomic, and I get the Lava-Lamp one."
- Ellie Hanna

"Atomic definitely. My favorite drink is Aqua Marine."
- Courtney Walls

"My favorite place is Atomic, and I usually get a PMS with peach."
- Yezabelle Moore

"My favorite energy drink is Alani Juicy-Peach, and I get them from Walmart."
- Quinn Witcraft



"My favorite place is Scooter's Coffee, and the drink is Peanut-Butter Crunch Blender."
- Sam Chovanec

"I like Wholly Grinds, and the Midnight-Rush Flavor."
- Maddie Schrempf

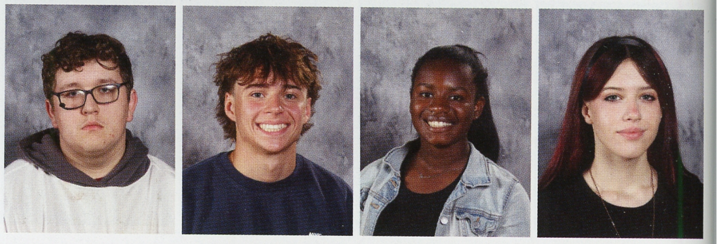
Justin Cishahayo
Elijah Clark
Kevontae Collier
Adario Colon-Melendez

Keelony Cook
Charles Cooley
J C Cooper
Jonas Cortez

Nestaja Counts-Richardson
Athena Crummy
Leticia Cruz Aguilera
Myka Daugherty

Isaac Davis
Saveah Day
Nyasia Deemer
Ella DeJonghe

Liam Dennis
Gavin DeRudder
Lauren Dieudonne
Gio DiGiacomo-Milburn



Alyssa Dillard
Xavier Dixon
Eh Kaw Doh
Kler Moo Doh

Adam Donaldson
Ava Donaldson
Grace Driskill
Exzavier Dunlap

Myles Duster
Brittney Duyvejonck
Carolyn Eckstein
Lakendrionna Eddings
Hsar Eh
Faye Ehrhardt
Calvin Ehrmann

Hudson Elliott
Evan Ellis
Beatrice Emedi
Tatiana Escobar
Dayshawn Evans
Ibrahim Ezake
Rikko Fender

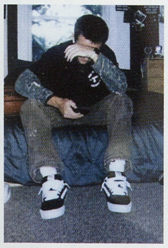
Danikah Fentress
Kayden Fentress
Nicholas Fleuter
Khloe Fluegel
Cameron Foley
Ilisa Fornal
Madeline Franks

Alexis Freitas
Ralynn Fry
Zoe Fuller
Kathryn Galbraith
Alejandro Garcia
Giovani Garcia
Jayden Garcia

SOPHOMORE STYLE

"Adding accessories to an outfit makes it ten times better."

- Hudson Behrens

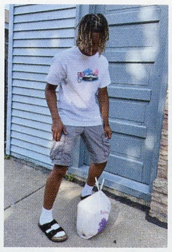


"The more color the better! Just make sure to have a good balance."

- Sonia Niyogushimwa

"Determine what you want to wear, depending on your mood."

- Kaelah Young

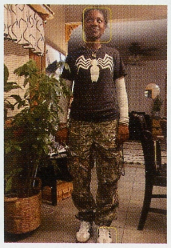


"A good combination of colors can really step up an outfit."

- Hsar Eh

"All you need is a good shirt. It's what everyone looks at."

- Cameron Foley



"Fashion is all about wearing what reflects you as a person."

- Ninah Payney

"Creativity used to the best of your ability will better elevate your pieces."

- Damauri McCaw

"Wear what you like. Dress for yourself, not for others."

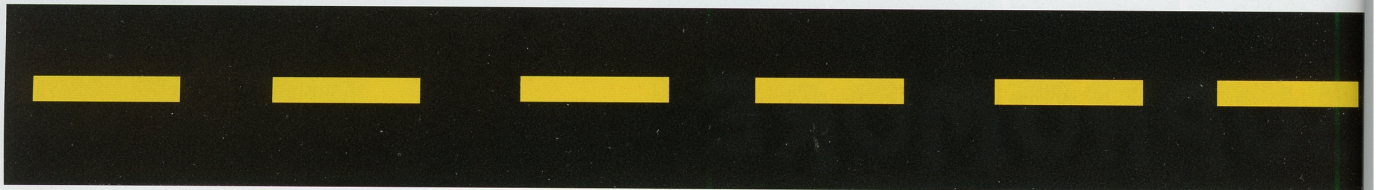
- Demi Robinson

Santiago Gasca Castaneda
Gabriella Gavarrete
Isabella Gavarrete
Tyler Gerst
Sophia Giesler
Andrew Gilbert
Ericah Gilmore

Hailey Gisi
Nathaniel Gomez
Alan Gomez Andrade
Estella Gordon
Mauricio Gore-Trice
Illiana Granja
Daysia Gray

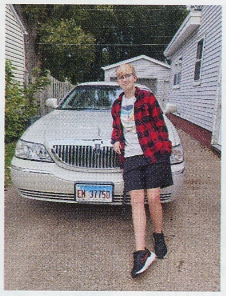
Kyleigh Green
Du'Maree Griffin
Martin Guzman
Martin Guzman
Kyleigh Haddick
Ayden Hall
Kamiya Hall

Spirit Hampton
Eliza Hanna
Amari Harmon
Emarion Harris
Dylan Hartzler
Tahir Hassan
Fatima Hatem

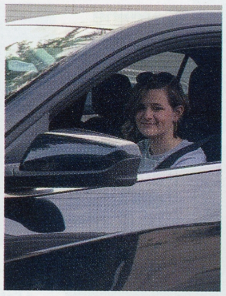


time to drive

"I took Drivers Ed during the summer, but it was an okay experience. My teachers were very strict, and I didn't really love that, but you know what, at least I can drive now."
- Alaina Bonja

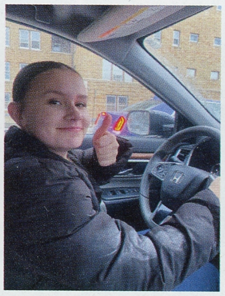


"Oh, man, it's fun! I mean, we go drive around outside with people, and we get to practice on sims, and that's pretty fun."
- Madz Hendrickx



"It's pretty chill. It's fun-ish when I drive."
- Olivia Strandberg

"I like my class, but sometimes, it can get very difficult because I'm a first time driver, but I've been getting the hang of it, and it's really fun."
- Nyasia Deemer



"My experience in Drivers Ed is very anxiety provoking, obviously, because you're getting behind the wheel, and I was a new driver. I feel like my instructor helped me a lot, and eventually, I became comfortable with driving, so it was a good experience."
- Estella Gordon

"I took Drivers Ed over the summer, and it was a really good experience. I find driving to be a helpful skill, and also fun."
- Liam Muir

Grayson Hathaway
Jase Hawk
Darius Hayes

Kingston Haynie
Peyton Hecker
Amelia Heine

Madz Hendrickx
Caleb Herrera
Tovy Hileman

Karria Hill
Eric Hillyer
Macie Hixson

Micah Hodgett
Myaels Hoffeditz
Ester Honore

Emily Hoover
Mya Horskins
Jace Hoteling

Amir Howard
Mariah Howard
Sandy Rose Htay

SOPHOMORE SHOE GAME

"I feel like my Crocs represent my best shoe game because they are a way that I can show my interests, and have cute looking shoes because they are so customizable."

Akili Richardson

"Wet Cement 4s, because they show that I stay up to date with new shoes."

Kayden Vales

"They are cute and comfortable."

Jordyn Randle

"White Oreo Jordan 4's because they are the best popular shoe that I own."

Arhianna Jandura

"While I have many sneakers, I still go with comfort over style. My Uggs are perfect for all my fall fits."

Stella Gordon

"I feel like my Adidas Campus 00's best show my shoe game because they are very trendy, and you can style them with almost anything."

Hailey Gisi

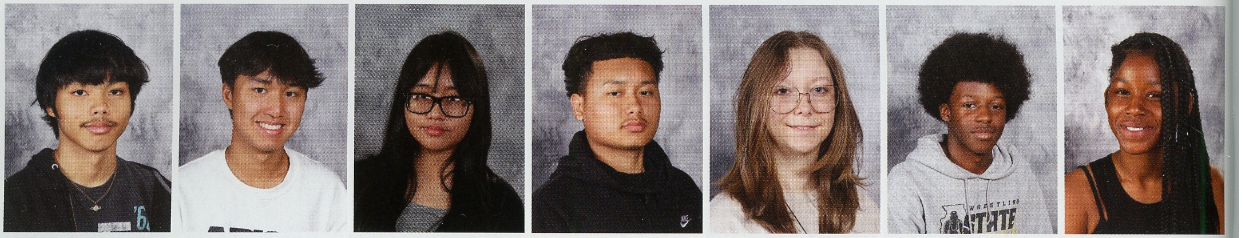
"My Dunks are my favorite because they are easy to style and very comfortable."

Pamella Iliza

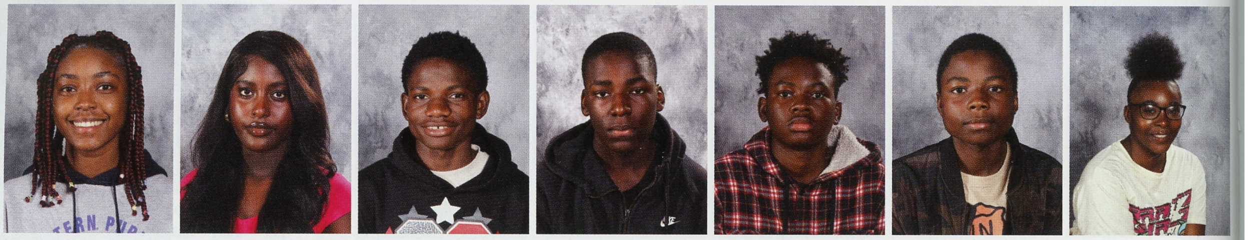
"My Bapes show that I have good style. I have a good amount of shoes, but these are comfortable, and yet still stylish."

Honey Moo

Gay Ler Htoo
Kler Doh Htoo
Say Law Eh Htoo
Wah Htoo
Alana Huber
Tyquez Hudson
Timmya Hughes



Dorcus Ikosi
Pamella Iliza
Juma Ilungu
Joy Irakoze
Kevin Israel
Ramadhani Issa
Anyah Jackson

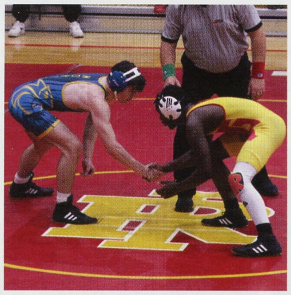


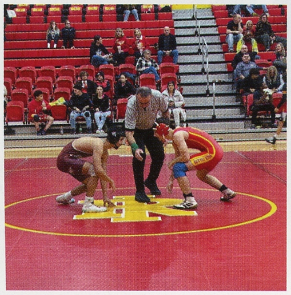
Mnena Jagusah
Jaylee James
Tinley James
Jeremiah Jamison
Arhianna Jandura
Devionna Johnson
Justice Johnson

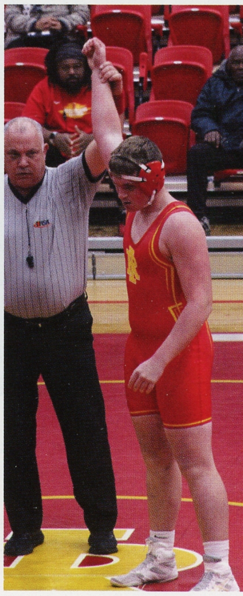
NaDavidya Johnson
Shane Joseph
Abimana Julienne
Dylan Juras
Ayla Kaha
Judah Kargl
Tresor Kasongo

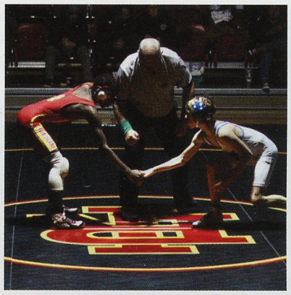
Didi Kayembe
Dorika Kayembe
Salama Kayembe
Latifa Kayonde
Taniya Kelly
Julianna King
Kateri King

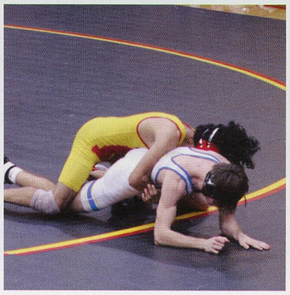
WRESTLING ROCKS

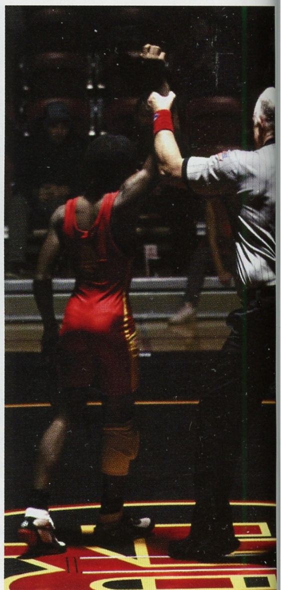




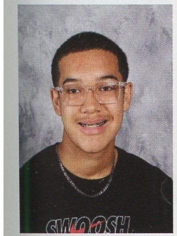








Adela Kisumbule
Chloe Klossing
Jazmine Koester

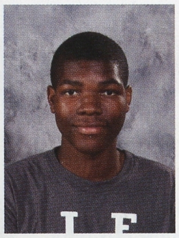


Maximiliano
Kongkousonh
Rose K'Paw
Tremiah Kraus

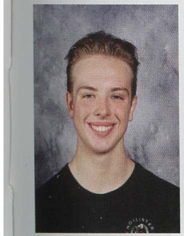
Myo Myat Kyi
Connor Lagaisse
Lauren Lambrecht

DaRazja Langford
Dee Borah Le
Jimmy Lee

Terriana Lee
Tyler Lee
Chase LeMaster

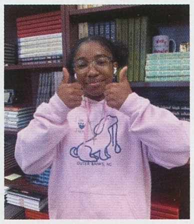


Jaycee Leutzinger
Swaveonna Lewis
Andre Lidell



Zaiden Ligeno
Alice Lin
Addyson Lincoln

Headphones vs. Earbuds



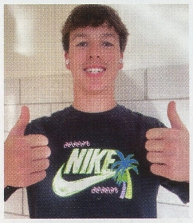
"I like my Airpods because they're compact and easy to carry."

- Jordyn Randle

"My Beats allow me to focus more, and I can play my music loud."
- Addyson Lincoln

"I can listen to music, and it helps me concentrate."
- Parker Stannke

"I like my Airpods because they're accessible, but easy to lose."
- Demi Robinson



"I like to listen to music with my Airpods!"

- Jase Hawk

"My Beats are loud, and they keep my ears warm."
- Akili Richardson

"My Beats, because I can focus more, and the music is louder."
- Ava Peppmeyer

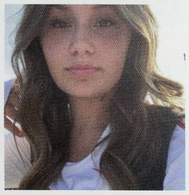
sophomore BEATS

"I listen to Zach Bryan and Gracie Abrams."

- Allison Schweickhardt

"Daniel Cesar, Frank Ocean, and Tyler the Creator."

- Jordyn Randle



"Basically, anything except for country and hard rock."

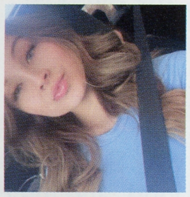
- Stella Gordon

"My genre of music is rock, rap, and indie rock music."

- Darnell Thornton

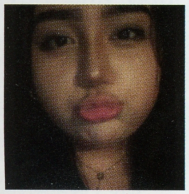
"My gene of music is alter indie, pop, and J-rock."

- Erin Norwood



"90's and 2000's R & B and country."

- Danikah Fentress



"Jenni Rivers and Espinoza Paz are some of my favorite artists, but I also like to listen to Middle Eastern music."

- Lirely Mendoza

Te'nnayah Lombillo
Bell
Benjamin Lopez
Raya
Sarah Louise

Halle Love
Karley Loveless
Sumaili Lubembela

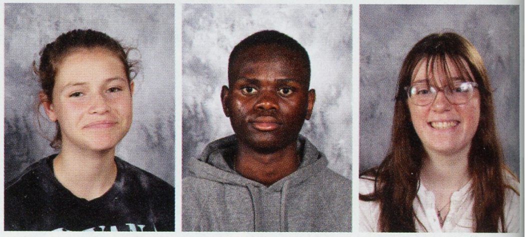
Kaleix Lucas
Aidan Lynch
Marcellus Magee

Gustave Malanda
Josephine Mamboleo
Emanuel-Jesus
Marceleno

Lorenzo Marceleno
Ruby Marceleno
Emily Marquez

Deven Marshall
Manuel Martinez
Megan Mason

Lucille Mass
Espoir Matendo
Eliza Mathews



Isabella Mau
Emily McCall
Damauri McCaw
Devonta McCaw
Emmanuel McClain
JaNasia McDaniel
Kylie McKillip

Jaimyiah McNeal
Jomi McNeal
Nathaniel Meade
Lirely Mendoza
Neema Meshaki
Corey Meyer
Journey Mierzwa

Owen Miller
Christina Min
Memphis Minteer
Sanah Mirzai
Aline Mlasi
Sam Moa
Mariana Montoya
Hernandez

Honey Moo
Nahviyah Moore
Yezabelle Moore
Amirya Morales
Alberto Moreno
Zayden Morris
Sydnee Moseley

Liam Muir
Kesha Neema
Allyson Newswander
Josie Nightengale
Sonia Niyogushimwa
Romeo Nolasco
Mohammad
Nooristani

IF YOU KNEW ME...
Then you would know...

"If you knew me... then you would know that I have been playing travel softball since I was 8."
- Jaylee James

"If you knew me... then you would know I stress about picking out my outfits every day."

- Ana Camargo

"If you knew me... then you would know that you cannot look at me in a serious situation because I'll start laughing."
- Ava Wolfe

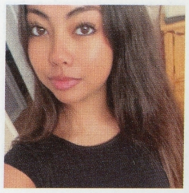
ROCK ISLAND
27

"If you knew me... then you would know that I love Atomic."
- Allyson Newswander

"If you knew me... then you would know how much I love dinosaurs."
- Trevor Nunn

"If you really knew me... then you would know I'm cold at sports."
- Jonas Cortez

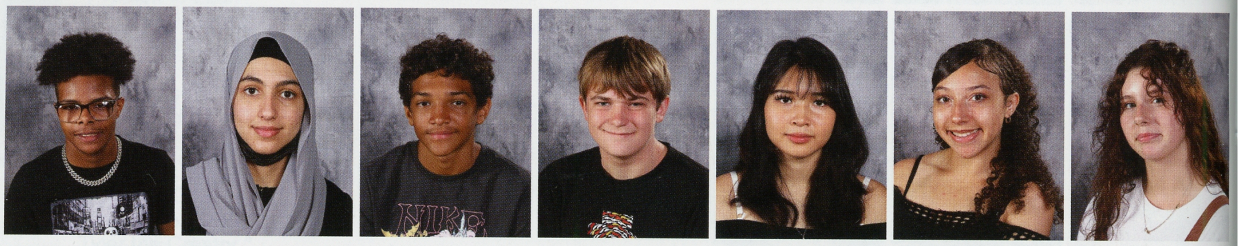
"If you knew me... then you would know that I have been playing football since I was 5."
- Brooklyn Roessler



Savannah Norman
Trevor Nunn
Lorenzo Ochoa
Blanca Olmedo
Jai'Nya O'Neal
Natalie Osborn
Joseph Owens

IF YOU'RE NOT FIRST

David Pack-Lewis
Ranna Parhar
Maricio Parker
Calvin Parr
Moxxie Paw
Ninah Payney
Madalynn Penn

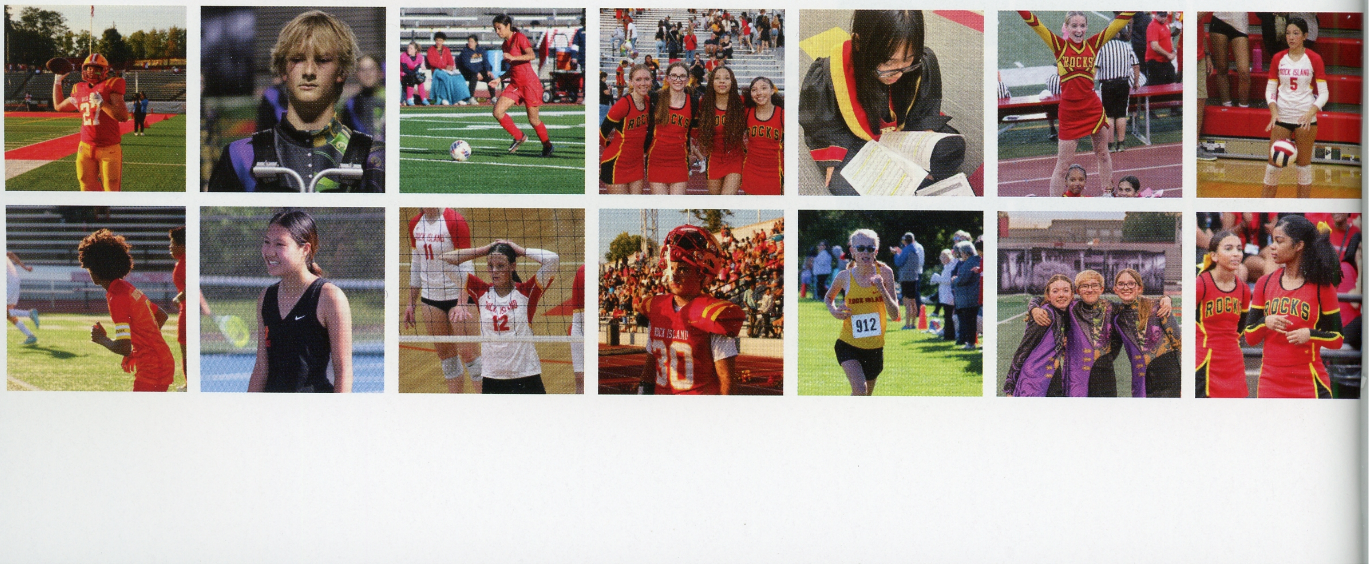


Ava Peppmeyer
Lilith Peve
Jose Pizano-Alba
Nathan Pothoven
Jazmine Powers-Hodges
Trenton Prather
Logan Pribble

Grayson Putnam
Jordyn Randle
Natalee Rasmussen
Nalia Ratcliff
Sage Ray
Kylee Raygor
Elmer Reyes Martinez

Akili Richardson
Yavela Richey
Krystal Robbins
Romel Roberts
Aliyah Robinson
Demi Robinson
Susan Rodriguez

GETTING @ INVOLVED THE ROCK



Brooklyn Roessler
Jonathan Rogers
Teresa Rogers
Abygail Rosales-Elias
Alexandrea Ross
Amari Ross
Travion Ruff

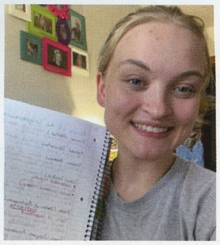
Carlos Sabino
Brodee Sandoval
Syriana Sappington
Ywa Tar Hay Say
Amir Scales
Destinee Schappert
Madelyn Schrempf

Allison Schweickhardt
Elena Sefu
Samuel Senatra
Kristen Shelton
Jules Shema
Carmello Shine
Chance Shook

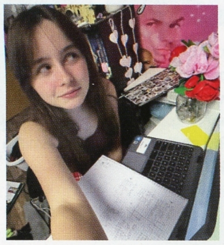
Sofia Sierra
Rodney Simpson
Reyna Skelton
Amiyah Smith
Marley Smith
Christ Soe
Johnathan Soe

Sophomore Studies

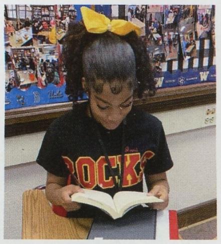
"My favorite place to study is on my floor, listening to music because it helps me focus."
- Ava Wolfe



"I study in the classroom. It's better. It's also where I review for my test."
- Jaimyiah McNeal

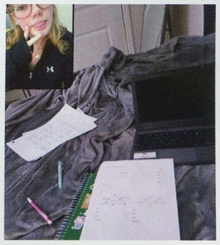


"I like to study at home, while listening to music. It helps me feel relaxed, and I like the comfort of my home."
- Kylee Raygor



"I love to study in the library during lunch."
- Marley Smith

"My desk is where I like to study. It helps me get my work done."
- Maddie Schrempf



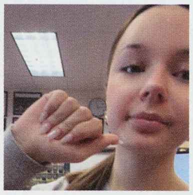
"I like to study in class because it helps me concentrate better."
- Jomi McNeal

Julianna Soe
Moo Law Eh Soe
Elianna Solis
Bertha Songolo
Emma Stadler
Madison Stadler
Destiny (River) Stafford

Parker Stannke
Aye Star
Rowan Stockwell
Living Stone
Olivia Strandberg
Lumande Sudi
Logan Summers

Allegrah Sutter
Keagan Swain
Karliey Swank
Samuel Tarr
Emiya Tate
Eh Taw Taw
Mason Teague

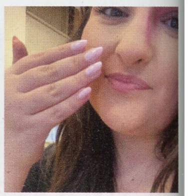
Kisubi Texas
Serenity Thomas
Lucas Thornburg
Darnell Thornton
Aiden Tinney
Emma Tollefson
Rosine Toyi

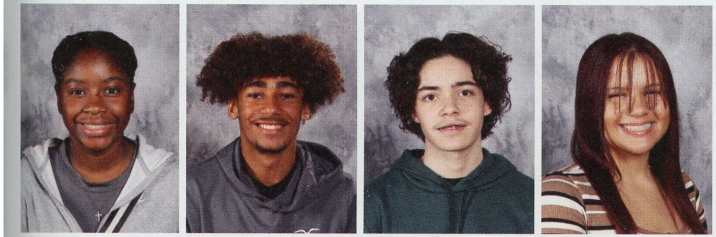

"Almond- my favorite color is probably white. It's basic, but it goes with everything. I also like French tips."
- Hailey Gisi

"I like a square shape because they make my nails look better, in my opinion."
- Amirya Morales

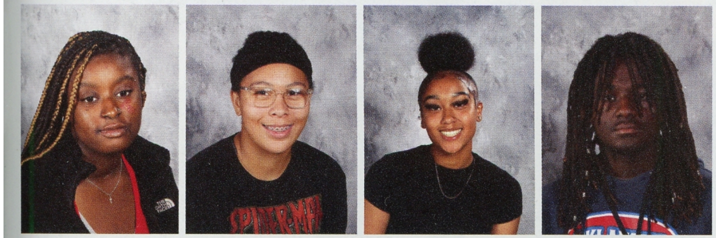
"I only wear square shape, and I like sparkles on my nails. White with silver is probably my favorite."
- Ruby Marceleno

"One inch French tip stilettos."
- Isabella Mau

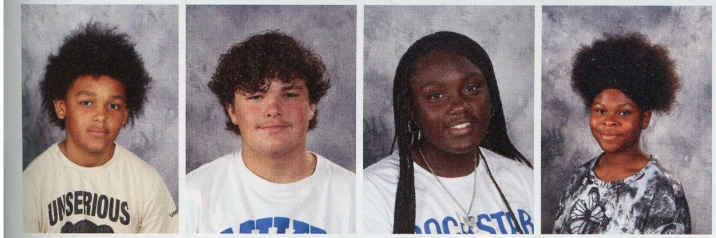

"I normally get a medium-short rounded nails, with a plain color."
- Ava Wolfe



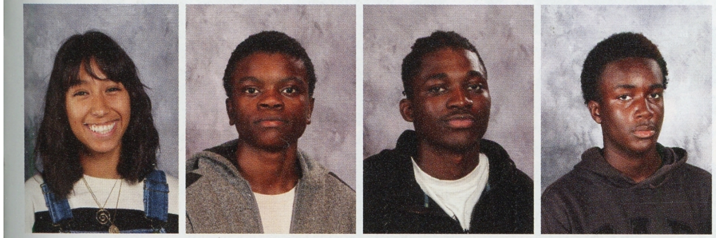
Sifa Tuyishime
Kayden Vales
Anthony Vilar Cedeno
Amiah Wakeland



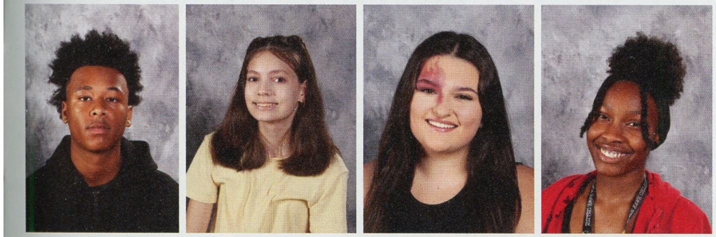
Janiah Wallace
Courtney Walls
JaKayla Walsh
Raymond Watkins



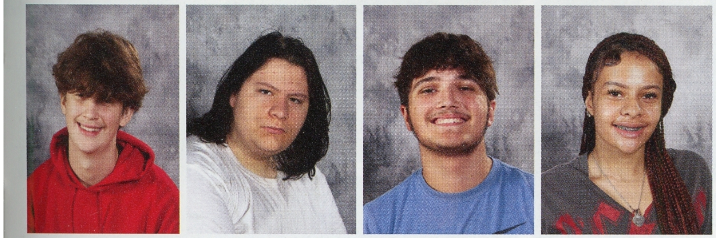
Casey Westerfield
Payton White
Giryah Williams
Jalani Williams



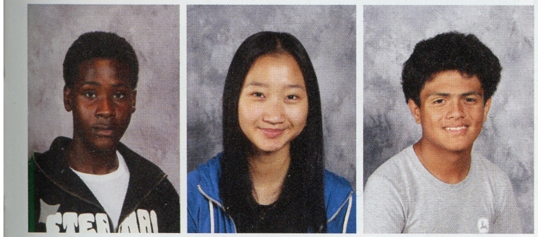
Sonia Williams
Mmembe Wilondja
Nunda Wilondja
Larry Wilson



Jayden Wilson-Angel
Quinn Witcraft
Ava Wolfe
Janelle Woods



Alexander Wulgaert
Kevin Yeater
Blake York
Kaelah Young



Ngurinzira Yusia
Paw Eh Ywa
Isai Zetina

SUPERHERO VS. SUPERVILLIAN

"Harley Quinn played by Margot Robbie because it's literally Margot Robbie."
- Marely Bunch

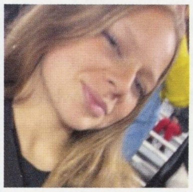
"I like Gargamel because he is silly looking."
- Nalia Ratcliff

"I like Iron Man because he has a cool suit and a lot of money."
- Ana Camargo

"Electro from Spiderman because he was only evil because he was treated poorly."
- Jaiden Johnson-Coleman

"Frozone from the movie *Incredibles* because he is awesome sauce."
- Kyleigh Haddick

"I like Batman because I like his gadgets, and they are cool."
- Tyquez Hudson



"Venom because he looks cool, and he is funny."
- Alyssa Dillard

"Don't listen to what others have to say about you. Cut out the people bringing you to make bad decisions, and take your work seriously. Have fun during high school, and make memories with your friends and the staff. Live a year you won't forget."
- Eh Ku Moo

"To focus more on grades and try to keep them up. And, to also be engaged in conversations in the classroom. To be helpful. And, be patient with myself."
- Addy Jo Keel

"Continue to do your work , and don't follow the crowd! Be yourself."
- Chelsie Thomas

our FRESHMAN YEAR

Freshman year is a time of change and adjustment. Freshmen learn to acclimate to a new building, new grading system, new schedule, and exposure to more students than at either Washington or Edison. Some students will compete at the Varsity leve immediately, get leading roles in the play or concerts, and play in the top musical groups at Rocky. Most students will go to class on third floor in the Freshman Academy, with a few classes around the rest of the school. Freshmen get used to the Rocky traditions of Homecoming, Friday Night Lights, and finals week. They learn what works to be successful high school students and what to avoid. While they may feel like outsiders when they start the year, they certainly feel like they belong by the end.

"My advice would be to make sure you do all of your work, and as long as you take good notes and pay attention, the tests won't be that hard. You also shouldn't over think about getting lost. The school is not as big as it seems, and it is very easy to find everything."
- Chloe Wiese

"To never give up and strive for greatness, show up to school and give it your best. Time will fly, so show up, and show your best, and be your best. You have to be dedicated."
- Jeremiah Evans

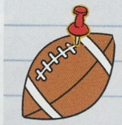
"As a freshman, I would advise myself to embrace new experiences, and not be afraid to step out of my comfort zone, as high school is a time for personal growth."
- Esther Jariya

SENIOR
BUQUE SENIOR HIGH SCHO

ROCK ISLAND
13

Varsity's freshest Flyer

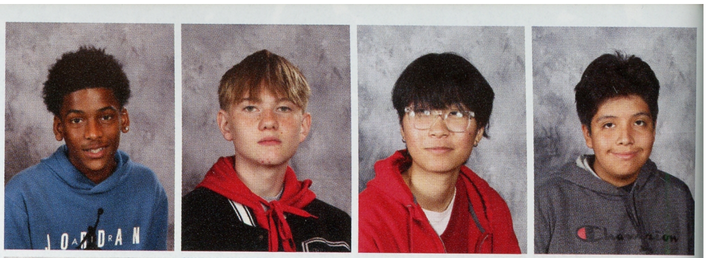
CHELSIE



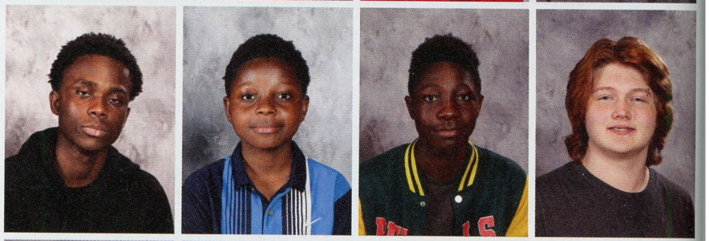
"I've been an All Star Cheerleader for 6 years now. From those years, I learned how to stunt in all positions, tumble well, be mentally strong for my sports, and learn how to truly be a good teammate. Being on Varsity feels amazing. I get the opportunity to bond more with the upperclassmen, participate in traditions, and most of all, I have the honor of being a freshman on Varsity. When I found out I made the team, I was in shock. I felt so proud of myself, knowing all the years of work has truly paid off. I can't wait for such an amazing season with this team. I feared when I joined that no one would like me because I was a freshman on Varsity, but this team has accepted me, and showed they truly care for me."

- Chelsie Thomas

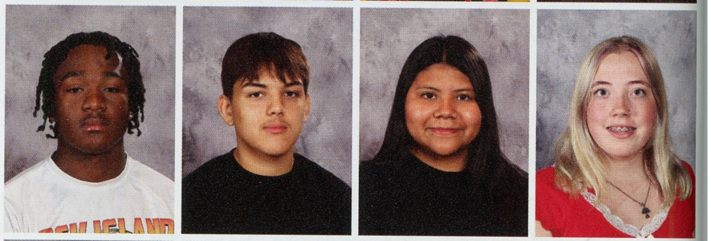
Darius Abbey
Sean Adams
Reyana Ahmad
Guillermo
Alba-Garcia



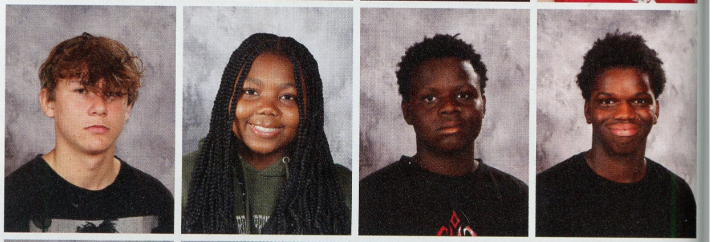
Niyonyishi Alexis
Dunia Alfred
Furaha Alfred
Cillian Allison



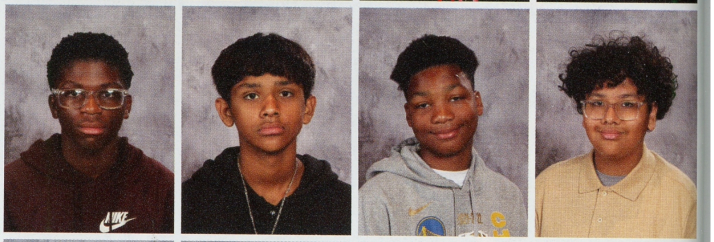
Jayden Allison
Daylan Altamirano
Kendy
Amaya-Gonzales
Natalie Anders



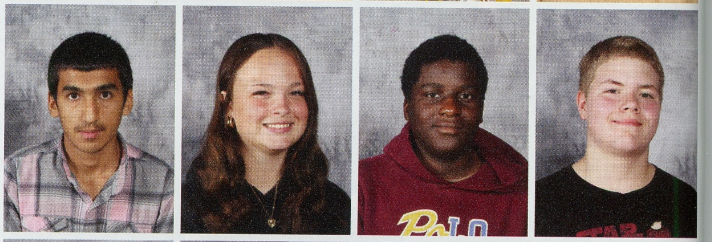
Joseph Anderson
Nadine Anzuruni
Malembo Assomani
Jeremiah Atwater



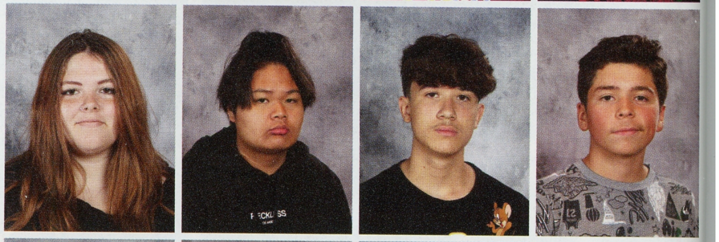
Stephan Atwater
Miguel Avalos
Jaqavon Avant-Orr
Ricardo Avila
Camacho



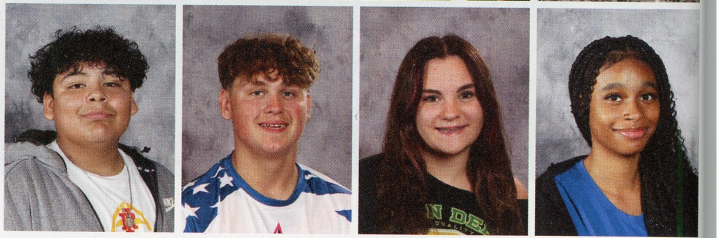
Abdiullah Bakhshi
Ava Balzer-Lao
Benjamin Banoga
Brandyn Bargas



Briley Barr
Luke Bawkuhtoo
Darius Bell
Louis Belman



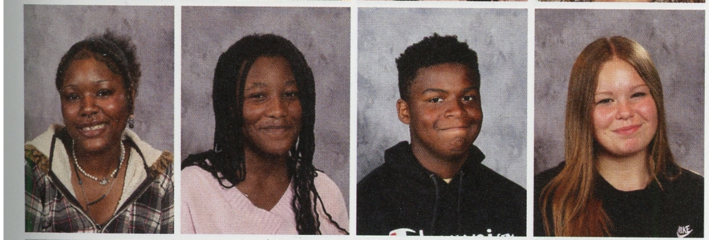
Josh Beltran
Bentley Bennett
Brooke Berger
Mariyah Berry



Mason Beserra
Azriel-Azzan Bibbs
Aujunay Blake
Isabella Bobb

Chloe Bourron
Josiah Bradley
Mauriah Bradley
Amauri Bragg

Jamias Brewer
Madison Brewer
Maya Brewer
Kaliyah Britton



TreaVionna Britton
Kalihya Brown
Kendell Brown
Lauren Brown

Zaniah Buckner
Denzell Bullock
Emma Bustamante
Scottie Cain

Sahir Camacho
Isis Cantu
Xavier Cantu
Lillian Carls

Taylor Carnes
Elijah Carpenter
Brock Carroll
Elias Casco

Aracely Castaneda
David Castaneda
Natalia Castaneda
Miguel
Castillo-Cisneros

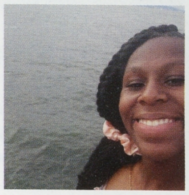
Freshman
FAVORITE CLASS

"World Studies because Mr. Kennelly is a swell guy."
- Jada Gottcent

"English because I love Mrs. Harms and I love Free Read Fridays!"
- Calla Kean

"Biology with Mr. Vogel because he is funny and I have a lot of friends in that class."
- Adelina Olson

"Spanish because it is cool to learn a new language. Also, Mr. Behnke is a really fun teacher."
- Aneisha Williams



"World Studies because Mr. Kennelly! He is nice and lets me sit with friends."
- Christianne Hare

"My favorite class is World Studies, and it's my favorite because Mr. Duster always has a lot of energy and makes the lessons really interesting and easy to follow. I also really like learning about history and why things happened the way they did!"
- Morgan Meyer

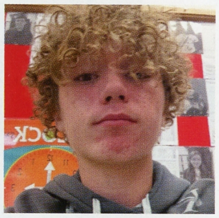
"Biology because Mr. Vogel is funny, and I have the most friends in there."
- Louise O'Melia

"English because I love Mrs. Vens."
- Chloe Wiese

FRESHMAN FEARS

"My biggest fear is probably not being able to open my locker, or it getting stuck, and the amount of time we get to walk to class. I'm always scared I won't be in class on time."

- Jayson Fry



"The change in the amount of people there are at the school."

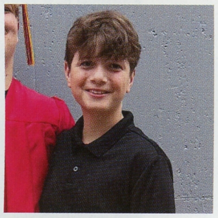
- Molly Hixson

"My biggest fear is ending up failing all my classes, and not getting the credits I need to pass freshman year. I want to succeed, and get the best grades as possible."

- Brooklynn Ericson

"My biggest fear, as a freshman, is probably not getting all my work done."

- Avi Gidaszewski



"I would say my biggest fear is probably all the new people and a bigger school."

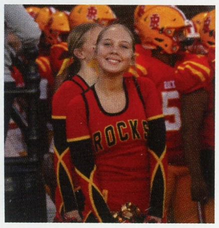
- Lily Carls

"My biggest fear is probably making sure my grades stay up for cheer."

- Audrey Hotle

"My biggest fear is probably failing all my classes, and being unable to participate in cheer."

- Chelsie Thomas



Aaliyah Casto
Kylie Caston
Teagan Chandler
Michael Charles

Gabriel Chavez
T'nyla Church
Cameron Clark
Jaya Clark

Nishimwe Cloudine
Zaydin Cochuyt
Mikayla Combs-Gibson
Adalynn Conwell

Jceon Cooper
Chase Coussens
De'Miajhanay Cowan
Jehrian Cozadd

Payton Creger
Amari Crockrum
Tyler Crossen
Aryanna Cruz

Jillie Cruz-Oliveros
Jaxon Cutkomp
Xzavion Davis
Alex Dee

Logan Dell
Nathan DeMarlie
Chase Drowns
Kyler Ducey

Riziki Ebengela
De'Taya Eckhardt
Khalil Eddings
Daegan Elliott

William Elliott
Layla English
Brooklynn Ericson
Jeremiah Evans

Aicha Fall
Jordan Farrance
Rayna Feddersen
Kilozo Fikiri

Donald Fisher
Jayda Fitzpatrick
Damian Flores
Ally Ford

Hunter Francois
Adamson
Keirah
Freeman-Williams
Jayson Fry
Timothy Fuller

Ladasia Funches
Jazmin Garcia
Olivia Garcia
Xavier Garcia

Kelis Garrett
Auriauna Garza
Amayah Gasper
Wade George

Wasima Ghafari
Esminee Ghulajon
Avi Gidaszewski
Jasmine Gillen

Donna Goeh
Isabella Golz
Adrina Gomez
Orlando Gomez

Rivals To Rocks

"It's great! These guys used to be my rivals, but are now my brothers."
- Ellis Swartz

"Playing on a team with former rivals can be an adjustment, at first, but once the 2 teams come together as a team, it's a great time."
- Charlotte O'Hern-Maidak

"Overall, we play better when we are together. We have better skills!"
- Jayson Fry

"I like playing with former rivals. I feel like I know how some of my former rivals play, so it's easier to read and talk to each other."
- Eh Hser Paw

"I used to not like the Edison players, but now, they are my family."
- Jeremiah Atwater

"It's definitely a change from going from rivals, and wanting to beat them, to being teammates. And, we work well together."
- Aneisha Williams

Jada Gottcent
Evan Grandberry
Anthony Granja
Lillyan Grant
Desirae Graves
Amahj Green
Mariah Greene

Dairyon Grove
Xavier Guldenzopf
Jeremy Gunter
Laycee Gunter
Antonio Gutierrez
Sophia
Gutierrez-Flores
Ofelia Guzman

Aniston Hadley
Ryleigh Hall
Alexis Handley
Hailey Hansen
Christianne Hare
Adonius Harmon
Joziah Harris

Teresa Harvey
Kaliyah Hayes
Ryan Hearn
Ariya Henderson
Anthony Henshaw
Steven Hernandez
Isabella Herrera

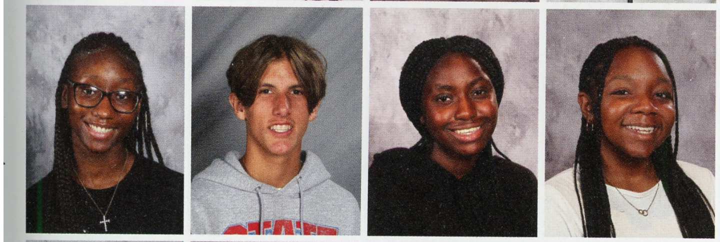
Isabella Herrera
Elijah Hicks
Ryder Hileman
Molly Hixson
Andrew Hobin
Kelvon Holland-Joy
Mykal Holliday

DeMarko Holt
Traeten Holtam
J'niya Horton
Journey Horton
Audrey Hotle
Benjamin Houk
Aniya House

LeAnna Howard
Colby Howser
K'Moo Hser
Paw Eh Tha Yu Hser
Say Eh K Mwee Hser
Daniel Htoo
Eh Snow Htoo

Kohthalu Htoo
Nay Kaw Htoo
Jackson Huber Davis
Jamyiah Hunt
Armerius Hunter
Camryn Hunter

Lamar Hutchins
Jasmine Ibarra Valencia
Lowson Jabbah
Areon Jackson



Patreona Jackson
Nolan Jared
Esther Jariya
Jordyn Jett-Ryan

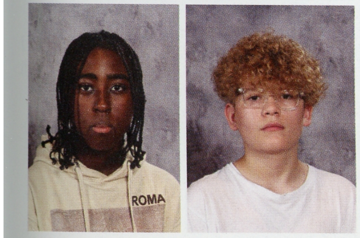
Shukuru Jibu
Nsengiyumva Jimy
Amour Johnson
Mattie Johnson

Zoey Johnson
Eunice Jones
Odile Kakozi
Kwon Kalomba

Abdul Kazime
Calla Kean
Addyson Keel
Sifora Khalaqi

Elijah King
Malique King
Jay Kirkbride
Jai'onna Knight

Stantrevious Knight
Angel Koester
Carson Kowalik
JaCory Lankford



Day'Breon Lee
Christian Leib

A FIRST FOR EVERYTHING

"I have been involved with the Rock Island Chamber Singers. What I enjoy about choir is the winter season."

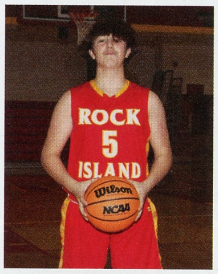
Chase Coussens

"Golf is one of my favorite sports to play, and I think it's really fun. It's not as competitive as other sports. It's kind of laid back more."

Andrew Hobin

"I am a part of Gray Matters, and I am also on the Cheer Team. Gray Matters is an important thing to me, as we talk about mental health and how we can help others! Cheer is also a fun way of being involved with the school, and it's so fun getting to travel to games with my teammates!"

Audrey Hotle



"I play basketball at Rocky. I like the community and the support from fans."

Matthew Thoms

"Being a part of the Rocky Drama Club is one of my favorite activities that I have gotten to be a part of because it was such a welcoming and engaging environment."

Zoey Johnson

Alonna Lemke
Swavay Lewis
Angel Lewis-Huge
Pierre Licon-Nolasco
Maleja Liddell
Lily Lieberstein
Khloe Littlejohn

La'Kyla Livingston
Michael Lobdell
Jonathan Longrie
Ernesto Lopez
Jose Lopez
Eden Lovelady
Salinna Majors

Debora Manila
Marc Manirabona
Fabrice Maniriho
Leia Manning
Jonathan Marceleno
Fernanda Marquez
Christopher Martin

Ava Martinez
Omar Martinez Moreno
Parrice May
Connor McAnally
Ethan McCance
Taijah McClellan
Nora McConchie

Kamal McCormick
Lucille McCoy
Hailey McDanel
Dylan McDaniel
Je'Mier McDaniel
Ka'Najiah McGee
Riley McGehee

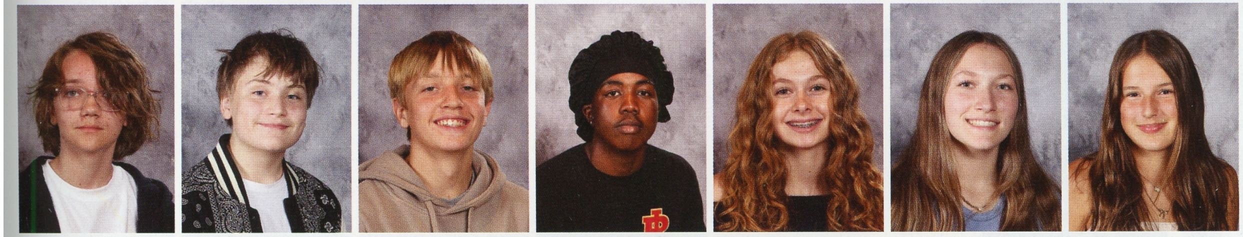
Jayden McKavanagh
Janiyah McKinney
Xavier McMeans
Stanzi McMullen
Lanell McNeal
Julian Mejia
Addison Melchi

Terrica Mentria
Morgan Meyer
Serenity Meyer
Kingston Miles
Kevin Mitchell
Anthony Moa
Eh Doh Moe

Saifora Mohammadi
Michelle Monroe
Eh Moo
Eh Moo
Shamerri Moo
Charis Moore
Dylan Moore

Ximena Morales Carrillo
Sophia Moran
Jacob Moritz
Otto Mosley
Jendavi Mujagic
Desire Mukucha
Shawn Murphy

Karine Mushosi
Nadine Mushosi
Daniel Mustafa
Lindsey Myers
George Nashimbi
Chloe Nelson
Kameryn Neville



Casey Newberry
Riley Nixon
Jacob Nordrum
Peter Nzeyimana
Charlotte O'Hern-Maidak
Adelina Olson
Louise O'Melia

Emily Owens
Angelo Parker
Dah Pay Paw
Eh Hser Paw
Eh Hser Paw
Jenny Paw
Katie Pearson

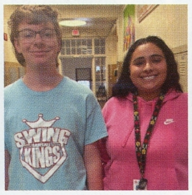
Christopher Pedroza
Charda Peniston
Gabriel Penn
Ayden Peve
Luke Phares
Jannete Pizano
La'Nya Pledge

El Po
Anisha Pore-Henderson
Kathryn Poulos
Heaven Powell-Brown
Sona Puckett
Brandon Pugh
Netathaw Pyu Peit

TERRIFIC *teachers*

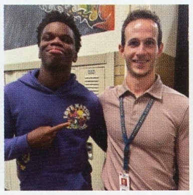
"Mrs. Atteberry, because I can go to her whenever I need her."

- Payton Creger



"Ms. Gonzalez because I like the way she teaches, and the lessons she has for us."

- Andrew Hobin



"Mr. Mertel. He's a great teacher. He teaches me stuff I didn't know, and in the future, when I graduate, I can tell my kids all about him."

- Jeremiah Atwater

"Mr. West. He is fun and motivational. He helps me become a better writer, and has impacted my freshman year so much for the better."

- Lily Carls

"Mr. Behnke because he always has a good energy, a good vibe in the class, he always knows how to make you smile, and he's a good teacher, overall."

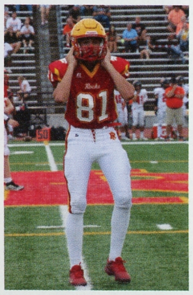
- Aneisha Williams

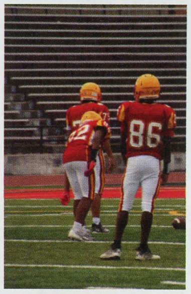
"Mr. Vogel because he's chill, cool, and really nice."

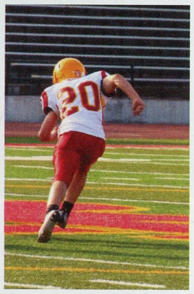
- T'nyla Church

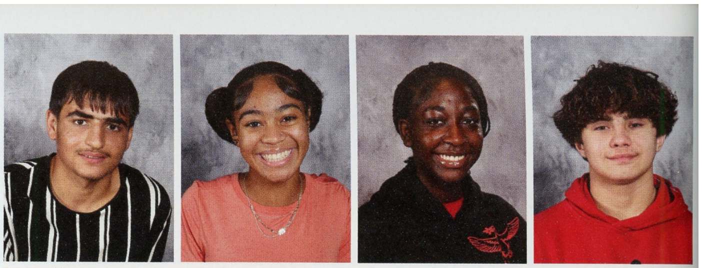
survival of the fittest

Freshmen take the field, and show how to get it done their first year.

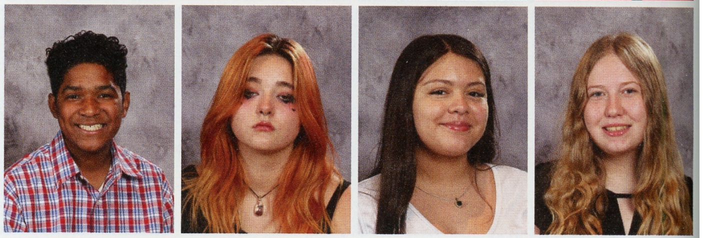




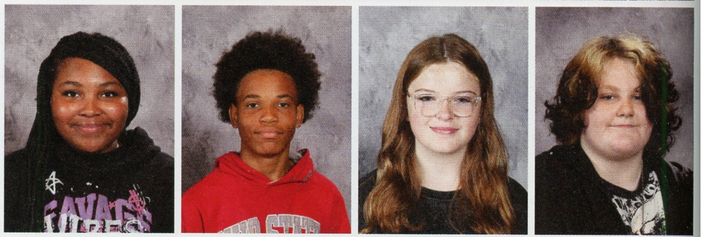




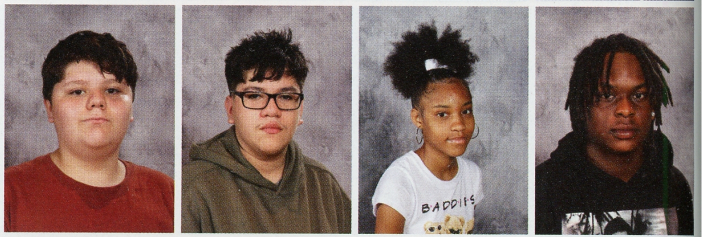
Safiullah Rahmani
Deriel Ralston
Imani Ramadhani
Joshua Ramos



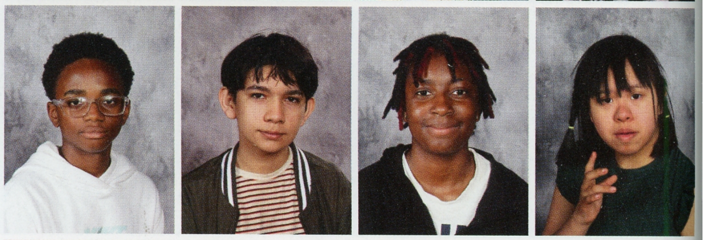
Josue Ramos
Star Ramsey
Yasmine Rebolloso
Felipe
Leah Rexroat



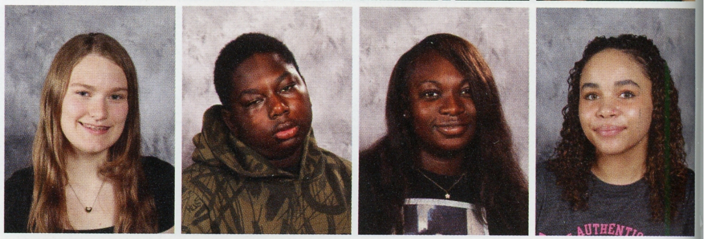
Alaya Richardson
Malcolm Richardson
Rebecca Richardson
Ava Rimkus



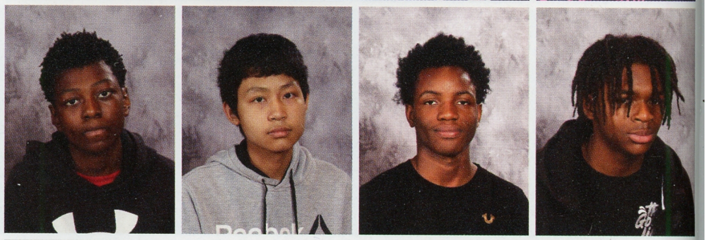
Christopher Rincon
Christian Rivera
Lopez
Na'Zyah Roberts
NaTiriyon Robinson
Waters



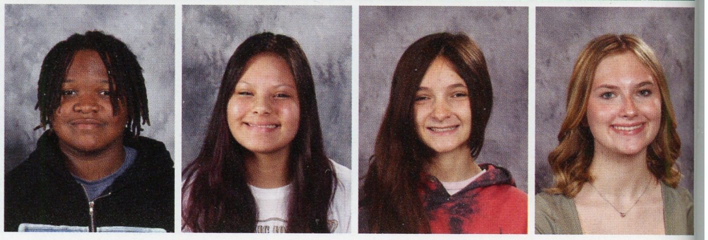
Fabregas Rodriguez
Alonso Rodriguez
Avalos
Sereniti Rogers
Angelica Rosales



Isabel Ruberg
Naszir Rucker
Na'rya Russell
Meena Ryner



Hamadi Salim
Hector Sanchez
Kamarih Sanders
Jamarlo Scales



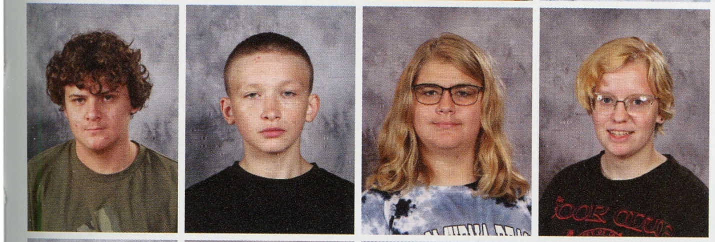
Willie Scales
Vanessa Schomer
Gabriella Schrempf
Lily Schriner

Sher Shee
Aiden Sherer
Mariah Sierra
Neema Sikabwe

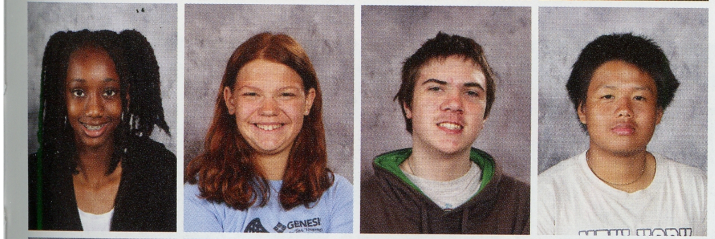
Talea Simmons
Cylar Smith
Damarien Smith
Elka Smith

Octavia Smith
Desi Smith-Tot
Lily Soemoo
Abdallah Solomon

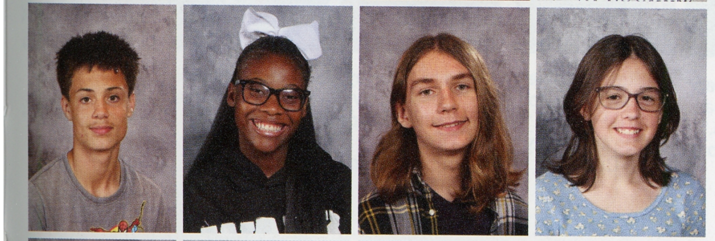
Colin Spilger
Kynedi Spilger
Asiyah Springfield
Aiden Stadler



Jordan Starek
Martin St. Clair III
Dylan Stephenson
Kamryn Stevenson

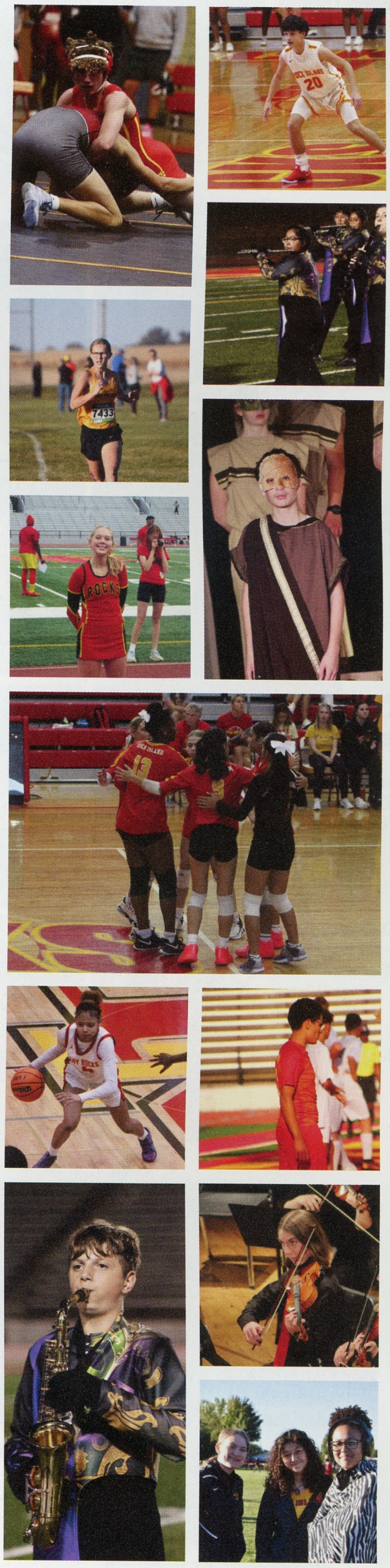


Olivia Stewart
Delilah Stiles
Hank Stout
Taw La Yar Su



Ellis Swartz
Amivi Takpah
Joseph Tavernier
Audrey Terry

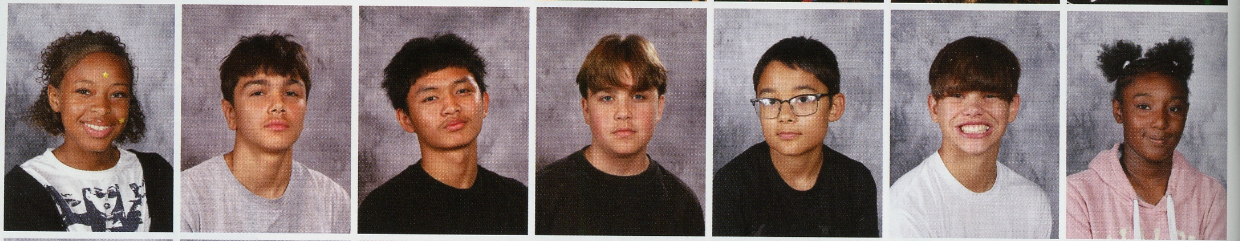
Khai Thang
Chelsie Thomas
Faron Thomas
Illiyana Thomas



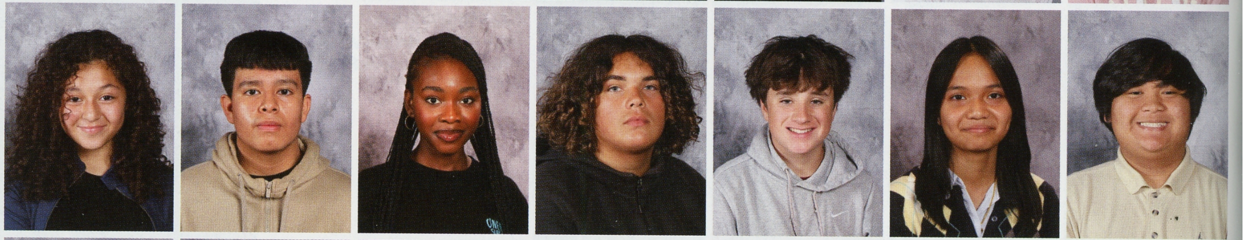
getting involved @ the
ROCK

Jayden Thomas
Kamari Thomas
Matthew Thoms
Jacelyn Thurmond
Taijah Tolbert
Jocelyn Torres
Julian Tovar

Kimani Troupe
Isaac Tubbs
Daniel Tun
Haven
Tuominen-Pawlik
Allen Valtierra-Gray
Michael Varble
Cydney Vaughn



Izabel Vega
Miguel Velez
Mwajuma Veronique
Michael Voorhis
Nicolas Voorhis
Gloria Wah
Kaw Ku Wah



D'meir Washington
Tony Washington
Brandon Watts
Jordan Watts
Ari'yanna Weathers
Zachary Welsh
Victor Whipple

Da'Nikko White
Daron White
SaMyah White
Jacob Whited
Fikiri Wiba
Chloe Wiese
Nakeyla Wilkins

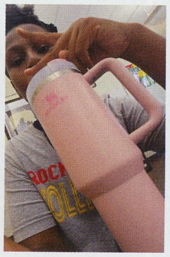
"I love my Owala because it's so cute, and it keeps my water cool."
- Calla Kean

"I love the sight of it and the bright colors."
- Terrica Mentria

"I like my Owala best."
- Chloe Wiese

"Because it's very pretty, and it has unique colors."
- Chloe Bourron

"I like my Stanley because it keeps my water cold."
- De'Miajhanay Cowan



"I like my Stanley because it's my water, and it keeps it cold."
- Aneisha Williams

"I like the colors, and it just makes me happy."
- Payton Creger

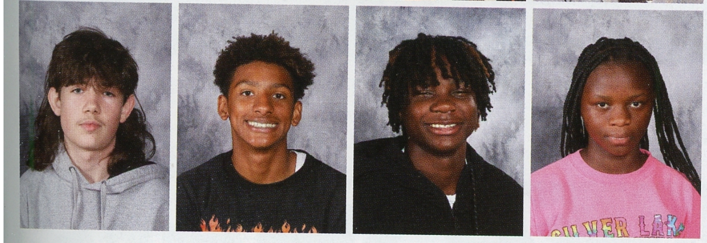
"It's my favorite color, and it's just so small and cute."
- Kimani Troupe

STANLEY VS. OWALA

the great debate

Aneisha Williams
Sa'Miya Williams
Amara Willis
Vaughn Willowbloom

Sarah Wilondja
Jeriah Wilson
Jaciyah
Wilson-Haymon
Noela Wirium



Gabrial Wright
Kamryn Wright
Deante Young
Eveline Zuwena

FRESHMAN MEMORIES

"My favorite memory is hanging out with my friends at lunch."
- Anthony Moa

"My favorite memory is when it hits 3:18, and I get to go to practice."
- Jacob Moritz

"My favorite memory is hanging out downstairs in tech during the play."
- Stanzi McMullen

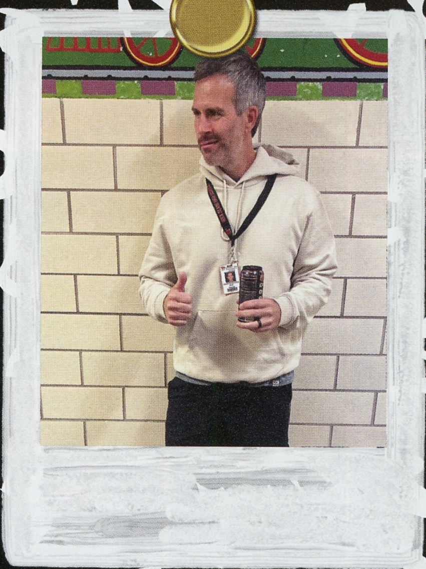
"My favorite memory is going to the Festival of Trees on an Orchestra trip with Stanzi and Eh Ku."
- Sona Puckett

"My favorite memory from freshman year was Homecoming Week!"
- Adrina Gomez

"My favorite memory of freshman year is my first day, since that was when I first met my friends."
- Jocelyn Torres

"My favorite memory from my freshman year is when we had our Day of the Dead Feast in Spanish 1!"
- Gloria Wah

"My favorite memory from freshman year is playing basketball. It gave me new, sister-like friends."
- Amivi Takpah



"Every day is an adventure and/ or challenge. Be ready to meet it, and roll with it. Watch what veterans do, and emulate what you can - adapt to changes to serve the community."
- Mrs. Curtiss

"I have been at the high school for over 25 years as a history teacher. I feel I am a part of the school's history. Maybe I have established some foundation and consistency to all the changes."
- Mr. Trenary

"Coming back to
teach at Rocky
feels like
coming home."
Mrs. Vens

our
STAFF @ THE ROCK

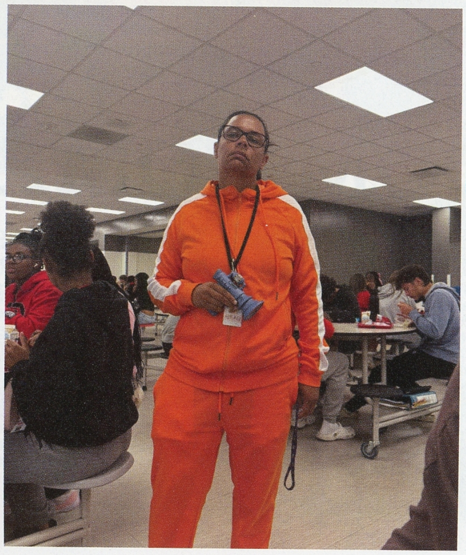
Rocky's staff includes everyone from teachers, custodians, paraprofessionals, administrators, counselors, social workers, school psychologists, lunchroom workers, tech personnel, student teachers, and coaches. At Rocky, the staff works to create a close knit community, where all feel welcome and at home. In this environment, Rocky staff works to make sure all students can learn about the material and how to be the best versions of themselves. Besides just teaching, Rocky staff members do a lot more for the students every day- whether it's coaching or advising groups, dressing up for Homecoming Week and the staff's secret Spirit Week, or just making sure they attend Rocky events to support the students, the staff remains dedicated to the Rock and those in it.

"I respected all of my teachers here at Rock Island, immensely. I wanted to come back to Rocky to be able to learn from the veteran teachers who inspired me to become a teacher."
Miss Bacon

"Teaching at Rocky means Commitment, Home, Kinship, and Community."
- Mrs. Foster

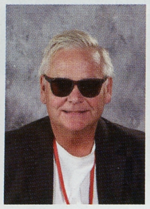
"Teaching at Rocky means a lot. I graduated from Rocky in 1998, and I am glad to be back! I bleed Red and Gold."

- Mrs. Vroman



Dawn Aimone

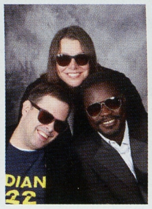
Lori Alvarez

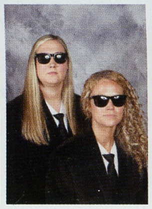

Dave Ames

Lorelei Andedo

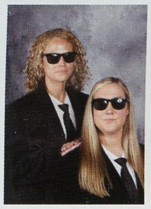
Lori
Angel-Young

Julie Arnold


Cassey Atteberry,
Chad Quick, &
Robert Mwaga


Anna Bacon

Meagan Baker

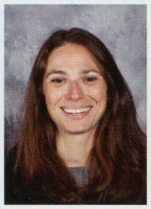

Janey Batterson

Kimberly Bell

Emily Bohling

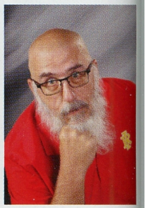
Mark Bollaert

Nadia
Bouchareb &
Nick Eli


Megan Braun-Howard

Christopher
Britton

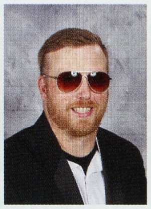
Brianna
Casarotto


Jon Catterton

Jenny Chewning

Julie Churchill

Chalondra Clark

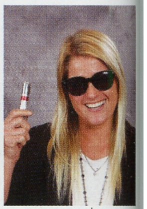

Tim Corwin

Amy Curtiss

Tonya Davis

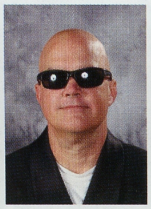
Trica Day

Erin Dempsey-Rohr


Katie Dennis

Stephanie
Dieudonne

Lisa Donelson


Keith Dunker

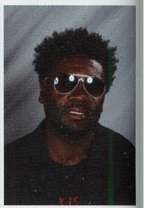
Tony
Duytschaever

Chris Dyer

Scott Dyer

The Dyers

Kelly Edgerton


Lavill Figgs

Dorian Foster

Kira Fox

Janice Gbenyo

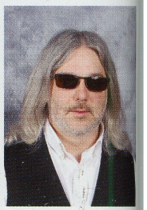
Valeria
Gonzalez

Yolanda
Grandberry-Pugh

Michelle
Greenwood

The Hallway
Squad

Bill Gustafson


Andrew Hains

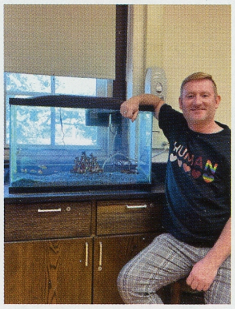
CLASSROOM COMPANIONS!

MR. MELODY AND MADDIE

"My class pet's name is Maddie. She has been a therapy dog now for about 11 months. I started to bring her here in January 2024. I think having her here has a positive impact on students and staff. They find her calming, and something to look forward to, for many of them. Oftentimes, students who aren't even in my class, or other staff, will come by just to see and pet her."

MRS. ANDERSON AND HER PETS

"I started with one snake and I wanted to see how the kids would do with it. At first, only one student liked them... that number just kept growing and growing. The snakes were very peaceful." Mrs. Anderson is thinking of getting some new pets, so be on the look out for those!



MR. STONE AND HIS FISH

"I have about eight guppies, and they don't really have names, but the kids give them different names each hour... The fish are in a place where the kids can see them. I noticed when the kids get anxious, and they look at the fish, it calms them down. Plus, the sound of the water hitting the tank creates a calming environment."

Tonya Hanrahan

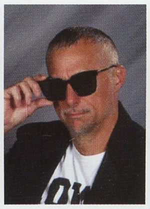
Jackie Harms

Kathleen Hartzler

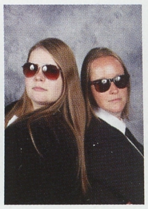
Connie Hayek

Destiney Hearn

Jessica Hernandez


Thad Hoover

Da'Myla Hoskins


Karolyn Ingle

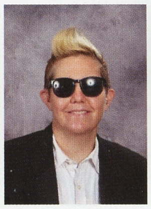
Meaghan Jackson

Devin James

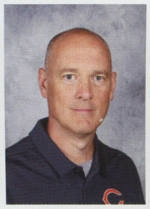
Haley Jarrin

Mikaela Jimenez

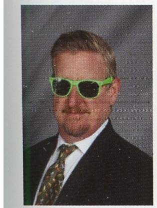
Jasmine Johnson


Jennifer Johnson

Darla Jones

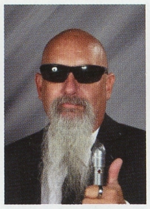

Troy Joseph

Chad Kennelly


Ben Kirgan

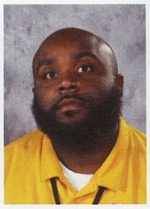
Jason Kitterman

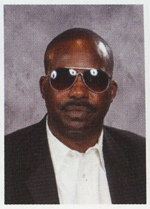
Susan Lanning

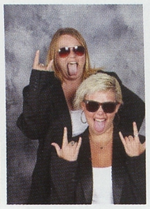

Chris LaRoche

Denise Lekwa

Dan Logan


Sam Mack

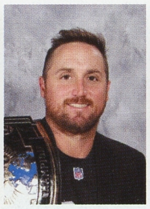

Emmanuel Hakizimana


Dawn Maloney & Audrey Moody

Morgan Maring

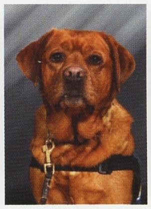
Kris Martens

Trish Matson


Sean McCollum

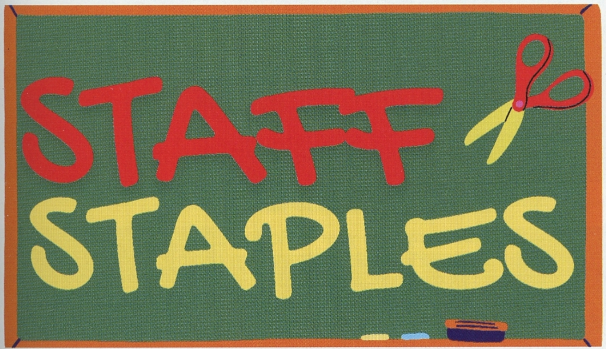
Cheryl McClendan

Aaron McKay


Maddie Melody

Mike Melody

Mary Mendelin



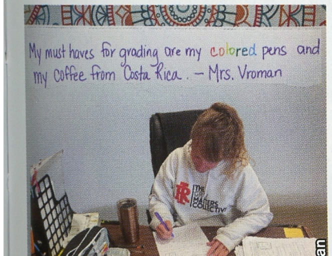
STAFF STAPLES

"I usually do everything on a computer, so I need my computer or Papermate Flair Pens!"

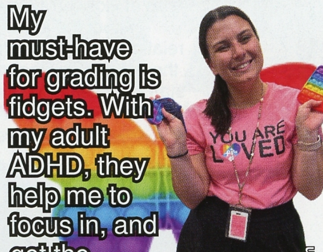
Mrs. Young

My grading must have is a new pack of flair pens. They are my absolute go-to pen for everything!

Mrs. Jarrin


My must haves for grading are my colored pens and my Coffee from Costa Rica. – Mrs. Vroman

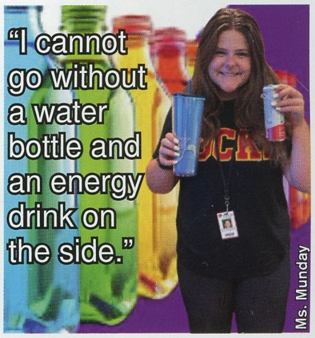
Mrs. Vroman


My must-have for grading is fidgets. With my adult ADHD, they help me to focus in, and get the grading completed.

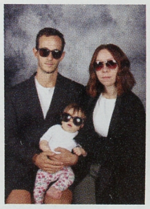
Mrs. Resch

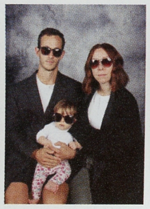
"I just use my computer to grade."

Mr. Tubbs


"I cannot go without a water bottle and an energy drink on the side."

Ms. Munday


Katie Mertel

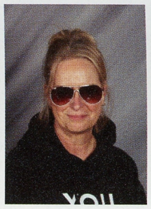

Mike Mertel

Patty Mewes

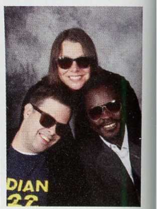
Meghan Miers

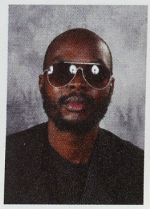
Jana Miller

Audrey Moody


Tammy Morgan

Mackenzie Munday


Robert Mwaga


Brian Mwaga

Keri Nahrgang

Andrea Parer

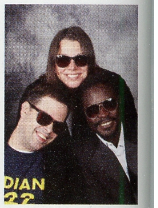
Angel Parker

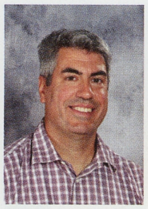
Tia Parker

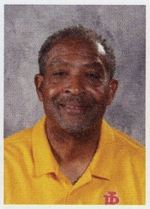
Julie Pearson

Daphne Perkins

Kelly Preston


Chad Quick

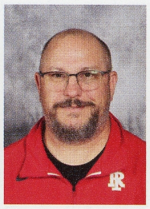

Anthony Ragona


Willie Randle

Nikki Regan

Stacey Rel

Shanley Resch


Lance Riccio

Dail Rice

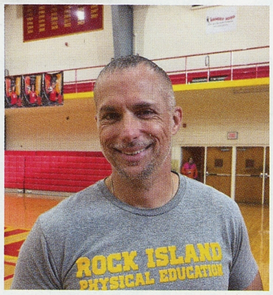
Steven Rogers

Derek Ross

DEDICATING DECADES TO THE ROCK

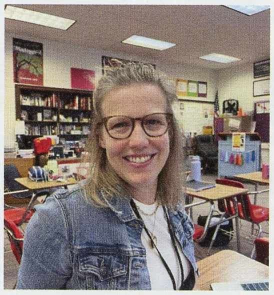
"This is my 12th year at RIHS. I would say it has been awesome. I graduated from Rocky in 1998, and I'm grateful to be back at my high school- this time teaching."
- Laura Vroman

"This is my 16th year at Rocky. Rocky, in many ways, has been consistent throughout the years. I see traditions being passed on from class to class, as well as new traditions start. I'm continually impressed by the leadership our students show, and how they are willing to help the community."
- Sarah Vens

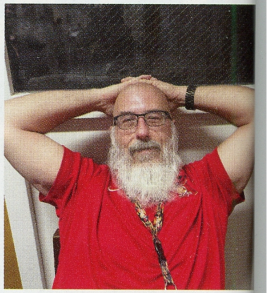


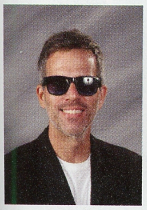
"I have been at Rocky for 23 years. Great coworkers, and even better students."
- Jon Catterton

"I have worked at Rocky for 12 years. My experience has been one of constant change. I have learned to always be prepared for something new to come my way, and to always be flexible."
- Steven Rogers



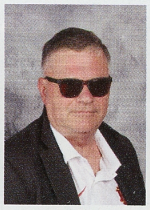
"This is my 17th year at Rocky as a PE teacher. I have worked with many great students and athletes, while working as a coach and a physical education teacher here at Rocky. My favorite part about the job is the relationships I have made over the years with other coaches, staff members, and most of all, the students!"
- Thad Hoover

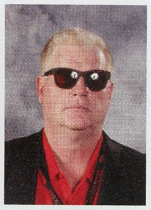



David Schriefer

Maria Schrup

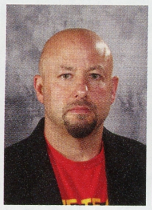
Brendan Sears

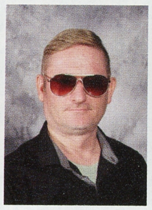

Dave Sebben


Craig Sharp

Shavonne Singleton

Patrick Smith

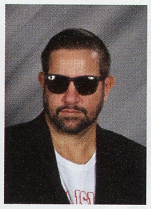

Joel Stockwell


Courtney Stone

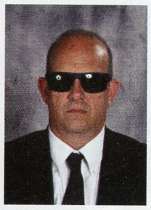
Kyle Taylor

Lillian Taylor

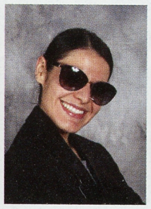
Royal Terry

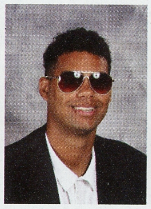

Justin Thies

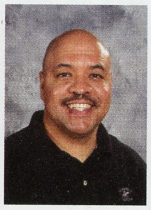
Nate Thompson


Michael Tollenaer

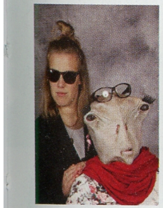
Maria Trigueros


Carmen Trimble


Isaiah Tubbs

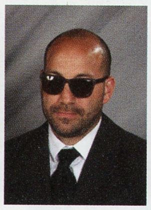

Steven VanDeWalle

Angela Vega

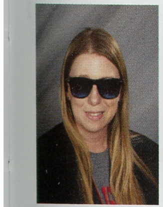

Sarah Vens & Dori Foster

Kyle Verschorre

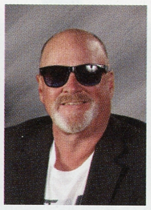
Andrew Vogel

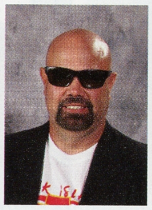

Jake Vroman

Laurie Vroman


Jillian Wales

O'nita Watkins-Harris


Jay Wayland


Wade Weber

Jeff Whitaker

Eddie Williams

Kia Wilson

Joe Woods

Kelly Young

IN AN alternate universe

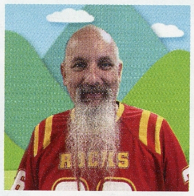
"I'd be a pro poker player. Everything about it is relatable to life."
- Scott Dyer

"I'd be an occupational therapist! They teach people who suffer from disabilities how to live independently, and I thought that was really cool."
- Haley Jarrin

"I would be some sort of detective. I have always loved to solve mysteries."
- Michelle Greenwood

"I'd be a financial planner. I enjoy following the stock market, investing, and helping people help save for retirement."
- Chad Kennelly

"I'd be a hunting guide because it's something I enjoy doing."
- Mike Melody



"As a little kid, I always wanted to be a cartoon, so I could see what was on the other side of the background hills."
- Chris LaRoche

"A disc jokey for the radio. I love music. I love to talk and have discussions with people. It's also great that you'd be faceless."
- Dan Trenary

"I'd be on Broadway. My whole life, I've done dancing, and I love singing and theatre."
- Shanley Resch

"Being a part of the football team at Rocky is a true honor because it represents our dedication and work ethic to get us better, as one."
- Damauri McCaw, 10

"Being a part of the softball team helps create a bond, helps you get better at a sport you enjoy, and helps set you up for college."
- Lilly McDaniel, 12

"Being a part of sports at Rocky has really given me a great outlet to focus my passion into."
- AJ Stewart, 11

ATHLETICS

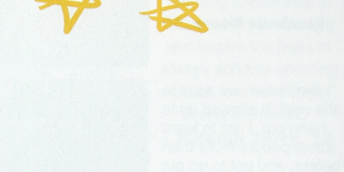
@ the Rock

Athletics at Rock Island High School is a space where athletes can showcase their talents in the sports the love the most. They have worked tirelessly for many hours a week to compete against teams around the Quad Cities. It is a place where you can create memories and bonds that last a lifetime. Sports here at Rocky bring people together, and shows school spirit and the pride the community has for all athletes. Fro being on the field or court together, to even just supporting your peers, the sense of pride is always there.

"Playing sports at Rocky is very challenging, but also very fun and rewarding, at the same time. My favorite part about playing sports is having the satisfaction of winning with my teammates, and also building chemistry with friends, in and outside of sports."
– Avian Thomas, 11

"Being an athlete at Rocky means a lot. You meet new people who become your second family. I feel like everyone should experience the support and Rocky pride that comes from playing sports."
– Layla Rice, 12

"Being a part of a sports team is the best thing you can do because it's where you make the most memories throughout high school. It's also where you can have the most fun with all your friends."
– Jake Osborn, 12



Dear Girls Bowling,

"Over these 4 years, you've
been my everything. You've
brought me such meaningful
friendships and shown me
how to lead a team. You've
also brought me patience
and shown me how to stay
calm in stressful situations.
With you, it'll never be
goodbye, but always, see
you later, in any bowling
alley.
I'll love you, always."

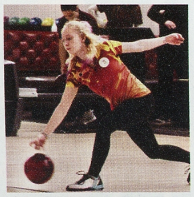
Sincerely,

Chloe Harmon, 12

rocks' favorite MEMORIES

"My favorite memory of the team was when everyone would cheer each other on and everyone brought each other up."

Ryleigh Terry, 12



"I liked the overnights because they allowed us to go to the mall and also spend more time together, as a team, outside of the bowling alley."

Kylee Raygor, 10

"My favorite memory is when we all got together, and had fun."

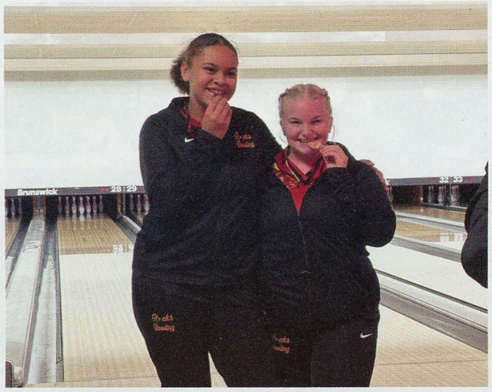
Krystal Robins, 10

"My favorite memory is when we are on the bus rides on the way to meets, and how chaotic it is, but fun, at the same time."

Yezabelle Moore, 10

"I liked when we went to the mall. It allowed us to hang out. I got to learn about people more than before, and got to go out and learn something different."

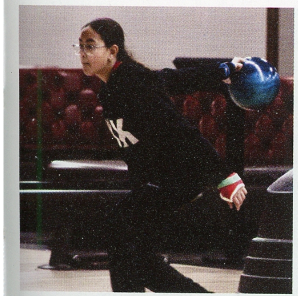
Natalie Anders, 9

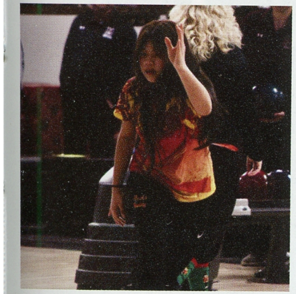


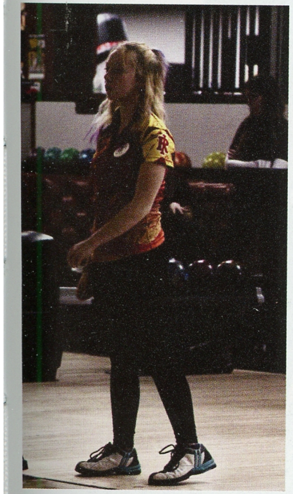
GIRLS BOWLING
2025

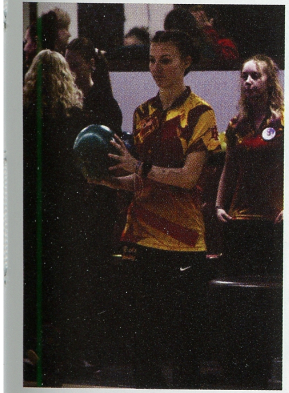
The Rock Island Girls Bowling Team won Conference this season. The team achieved the Conference Title at their home bowling alley, Backyard Bowl, in Milan. The team demonstrated solid success throughout the day, consistently bowling scores in the 800s, and even achieving a few 900s, as a team. Their teamwork and consistency were key factors in securing this victory.

Chloe Harmon received first place, and was named Player of the Year. Reflecting on the win, she said, "It's really the hard work and dedication that pays off." Head Coach Jennifer Sholl expressed her anxiety and overall relief, once the competition concluded, and she knew they had secured the win.







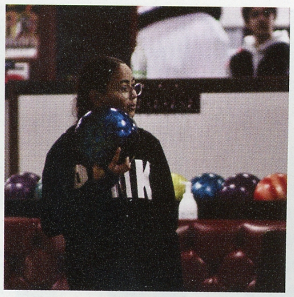


rocks roll to SUCCESS

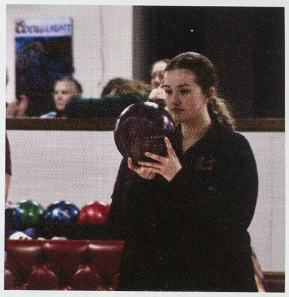
This season's bowling journey has been nothing short of remarkable for the Lady Rocks, as they set out with clear goals and a determination to improve upon last year's performance. As Coach Jennifer Sholl stated, "Our goal was to improve from last year, and stay in the top half on bowling invites. We did achieve them, and actually exceeded them." This commitment to excellence has driven the team to new heights, culminating in a successful season, filled with accomplishments.

Throughout the season, the girls faced various challenges, particularly with their lineup. Coach Sholl noted, "Challenges were that we didn't have a complete set team during the season; the 4 and 5 spots were fluid, as to who was going to bowl." Despite this uncertainty, the girls remained adaptable, experimenting with different combinations until they discovered a lineup that truly clicked. This adaptability was crucial in allowing them to find the right balance, and ultimately, succeed.

The pinnacle of the girls' achievements came when they won the Western Big 6 Conference Meet. Coach Sholl proudly shared, "Our greatest accomplishment was winning the Western Big 6 Conference Meet, with 2 bowlers making First Team All-Conference, and Chloe being named Bowler of the Year." Additionally, Ryleigh Terry and Chloe Harmon made it to Sectionals, showcasing their exceptional talent and dedication. As Coach Sholl reflected, "I'm most proud of the way we came together at the end of the year, and won the Western Big 6 Conference," highlighting the importance of teamwork and camaraderie. As the team looks ahead, Coach Sholl hopes that every bowler not only improved their skills, but also enjoyed the season, encouraging them to return next year for more exciting challenges.



GIRLS BOWLING 2025

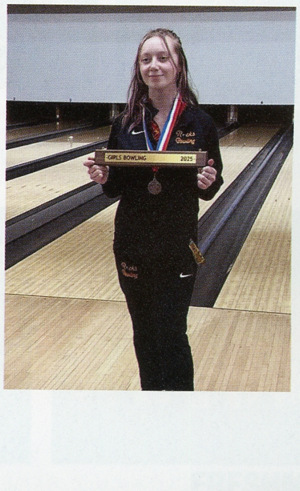


GIRLS BOWLING 2025

Chloe Harmon
Second Year Varsity
Captain

"It's been such an honor being able to be a Varsity Captain for two years. I'm glad I've been able to help, lead, and love this team with everything I have. I'm hoping to see the team continue to grow, and have overwhelming success."

- Chloe Harmon, 12



Ryleigh Terry
First Year Varsity
Captain

"This has been such an amazing opportunity to learn how to encourage and inspire the team to always achieve amazing goals, and have such strong teamwork."

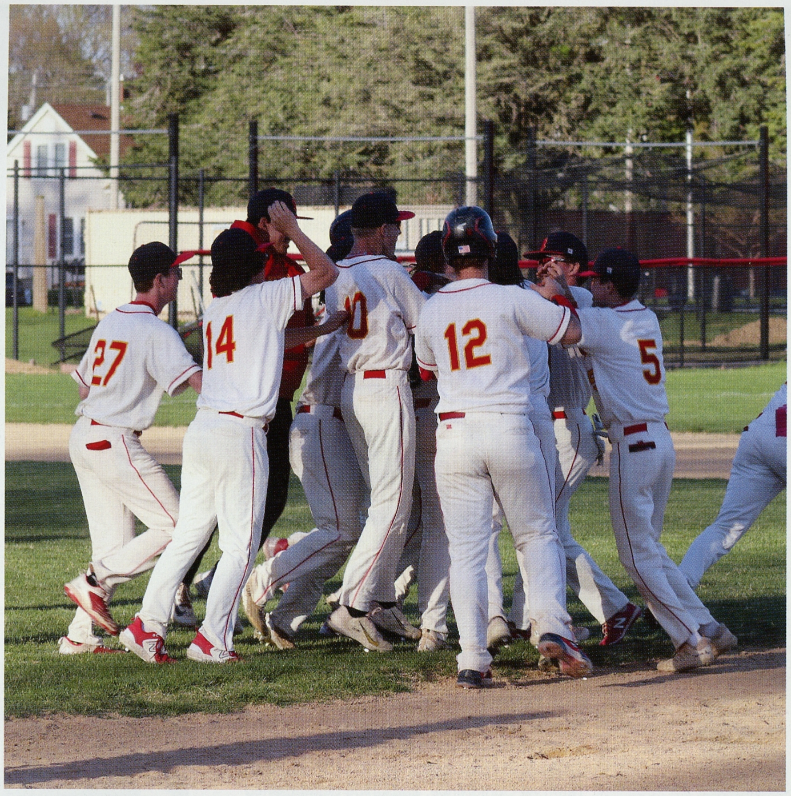
- Ryleigh Terry, 12

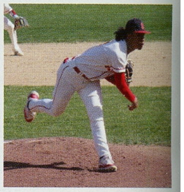
Dear Rocky Baseball,

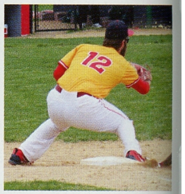
"Being a part of the Rocky Baseball Team has given me a 'found family'. Most of the guys on this team, I've grown up playing with, which I think created a great atmosphere for game play. This sport has brought me so many memories and friendships that will stay with me for life. These 4 years of baseball I've played at Rocky are 4 years I wouldn't trade for the world, so for that, I say, 'Thank you, Rocky Baseball.'"

Sincerely

Grant Stewart

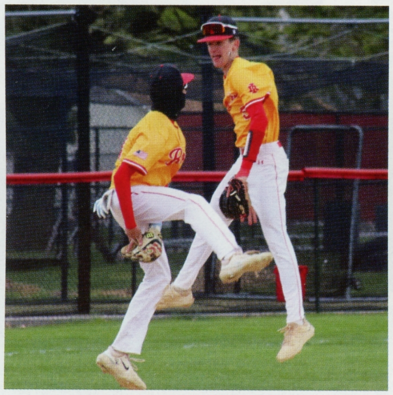






PROUD COACHES make great athletes

Coach Jake Scudder explained that working with other coaches is helpful because "You get to learn about some different experiences and bounce things off of each other," and that it's "good to ask questions, and learn things every day." His favorite drill to do is hitting and anything offense based. His dedication to improving the Rocks' coaching has clearly had results for the team!



WHAT DOES IT mean?

"It means a lot to me because my dad and grandpa went here, so playing baseball with the jersey is like carrying on their legacy."
- Trevor Nunn

"Wearing the Rocky Baseball Jersey is to show up every day, ready to learn and work. Be willing to do what is best for the team, and respect the game."
- Nathan Pothoven

"What it means to me to wear the Rock Island Baseball Jersey is a reflection of the hard work and determination that has made our program what it is today. I know that everyone will always put out their best effort and do what it takes to win."
- Charles Cooley

respected TRADITION

"We show up and win."
- Alexander Churchill

"We don't wash our arm sleeves if we win."
- Chase Curry

"Before games, we play a game called 2ball."
- Grant Stewart

CHANGE UP the season

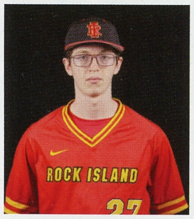
The Rocky Baseball Team continued their winning ways in the 2024 season. Coach Scudder stated, "We ended up getting 2nd in Conference and ended the year at 23 and 10." Along with that, he excitedly mentioned, "Five guys went off to play college baseball, and the rest of the seniors went off to attend college and continue their education."

Part of the team's success was due to the bond they shared. In the four years Scudder has led the Rocks, the relationships he's formed with the players continues to inspire him to return. "We have a new roster every year, and get to build relationships with the guys," said Scudder, "and that allows them to obtain their goals, and move on in the baseball world, or the real world."

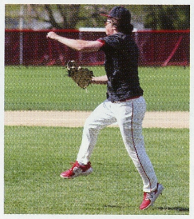
Scudder's favorite memory of coaching last season was "practicing day to day with the guys, getting to build relationships, and see how different kids do different things. We've had a lot of successes on the field, and watching the kids grow is probably my favorite part."

MAKING memories

"Hitting a walk off against UT."
- Ayden Braud



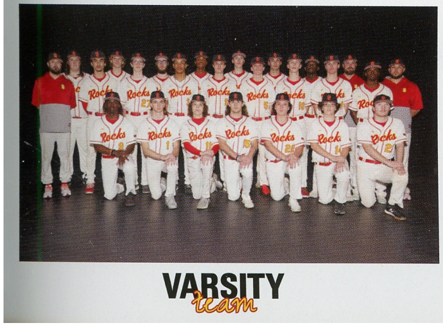
"My favorite memory was going down to Jacksonville, IL for our tournament to start the season."
- Trace Downing



"Traveling to Jacksonville early in the year."

- Carson Banks

"My favorite memory from last year's season was when we took a trip to Jacksonville for a tournament, and we got to stay in a hotel, and the people in my room were fun. We had PS5 in there, and we are playing Madden all night."
- Jake Osborn



VARSITY team

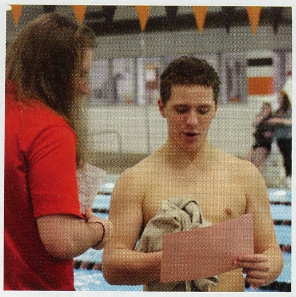
SOPHOMORE team

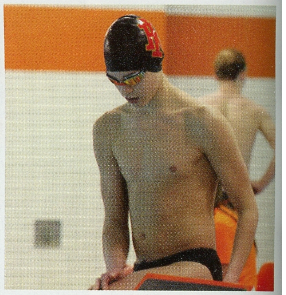
FRESHMAN team

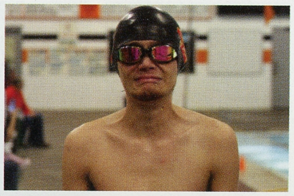
The Rock Island Boys' Swimming and Diving Team had an excellent 2024-25 season, despite their lack of a home pool. Coach Brown explained, "Not having our own facility is a huge challenge. We are never at home for a meet, and have to always travel. The boys make the best of this by making the bus rides fun. Parents help by providing snacks, and traveling to support all our swimmers. We also have to have very late practices, from 7:15-9:15, but this year, the boys showed up and worked hard every practice. That is a huge improvement from last year, when I had lots of nights with boys out."

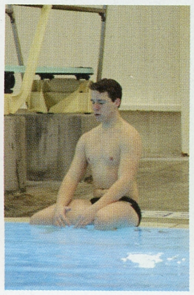
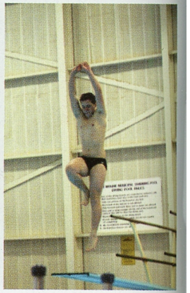
With hard work and dedication, the boys pulled through to secure many achievements throughout the season. The boys showed their most improvement at Conference. Coach Brown stated the team's greatest accomplishments as, "PRs across the board, and the constant support they all show to each other. We have fun."

Antonio Aguilar, Matthew Roessler, Nathan Anderson, and Daegan Elliott received 3rd Place medals in the 200 Medley Relay. Likewise, Nathan Anderson secured 2nd Place in the 100 Fly Individual Event. Finally, Andrew Oliver earned 1st Place All-Conference in Diving! The boys had a great season, and look forward to improving even more next year.





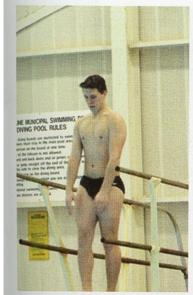


swimming towards SUCCESS

"My best time drop this season was probably in my 200 IM, since I dropped around four seconds. I felt really happy, and I am hoping to improve my time more at Sectionals."
- Nathan Anderson, 10

"My 200 Free. I went from a 2:50 from last year to a 2:35- a whole 15 seconds. I felt truly accomplished. Last year, I never could've imagined how much better I got compared to where I started from."
- Thom Elliot, 12



Dear Boys' Swimming,

"Swimming has impacted me in many ways, including teamwork and physical strength. Swimming has also shaped who I am today. The way I act, joke around, and, overall, do things. My day has been influenced by the sport and my team."

Sincerely,
Matthew Roessler

A MEDLEY OF *memories*

"My favorite memory is when we thought we lost to UT, but we actually won by one point, and we all started screaming."
- Angelina Abarca, 10

"My favorite memory has been getting to cheer my teammates on and watch them win."
- Madelyn Shrempf, 10

"My favorite swim memory is my sophomore year when I fell in the pool, and almost got the whole team disqualified."
- Lizzie Shorten, 12

ROCK ISLAND
SWIMMING & DIVING

POST MEET *munchies*

"My favorite munchie is a hot dog because it's a good source of protein, and it's delicious!"
- Madelyn Schrempf, 10

"My favorite post meet munchie is a sandwich and a big Coke. I love the carbonation of the Coke, and the sandwich is so tasty!"
- Reagan Hawotte, 12

Dear Girls' Swimming,

"I have been on the Swim Team for all of high school, and I can proudly say that the friends I have made and the bonds that have formed from this sport are some that I will cherish forever. I am so grateful to be a part of the Girls' Swim Team."

Sincerely,
Gracelynn Veys

This season was an emotional one for Rock Island High School's Girls' Swim Team. The team showed positive progress throughout the whole season, with their biggest accomplishment being taking home first overall at the UT Sprint Invite. Coach Brown stated, "The highlight of the season was winning the Panther Sprint Classic. Our entire team walked away with a ribbon and a Top 6 finish in their individual events."

With not having a home pool, the team worked hard at practice to improve their times and earn points for the team. As the season came to a close, the girls still had many accomplishments. At the Conference meet, Lizzie Shorten, Reagan Hawotte, Kateri King, and Gracelynn Veys placed 3rd overall in the 200 Freestyle Relay. Furthermore, Gracelynn Veys placed 3rd overall in the 100 Freestyle event at Conference, and placed 6th overall in the 100 Freestyle at Sectionals. Overall, the girls had a great season, taking home many wins.

diving into ADULTHOOD

As the season comes to a close, the team wonders what the seniors will be doing once they're out of high school. Will they continue to swim in college? What career path will they choose to pursue?

"Swimming in college is not a plan, as of now, but you never know what the future holds. I plan on going into college and studying to become a biology teacher."
- Reagan Hawotte, 12

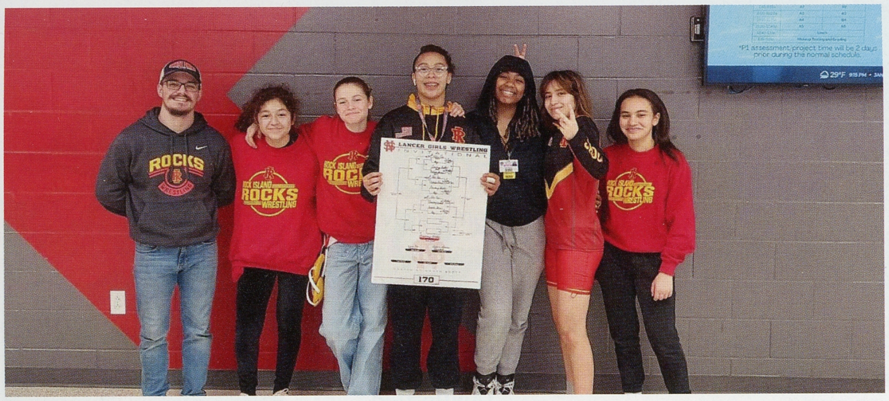
IR
SWIMMING & DIVING

"I plan to go to college to study nursing or something involving psychology and sociology. If the right opportunity arises, I would consider swimming in college."
- Lizzie Shorten, 12

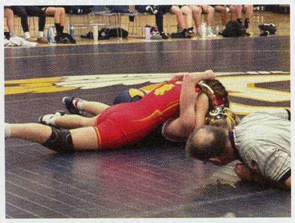
"Swimming is definitely one of my passions that I plan to continue in college, however, I plan to graduate early, and take a year off to work full time before attending college."
- Noah Wright, 12

Sectional Sleepover

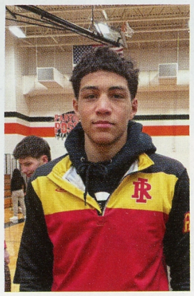
Every year, the Varsity Girls' Swim Team has a team sleepover the weekend before Sectionals. This tradition is important to the team because it is a fun bonding activity that brings everyone together before the final meet of the season. The Sectional sleepover is very emotional for some swimmers because it is the last time everyone will be together before the meet.



Rocky's Female Wrestlers:
Courtney Walls, Izabel Vega, Lucille Mass, Reyna Skelton, Mikayla Combs-Gibson, Coach Hunter Aldrich



A BIGGER *role*



"Being a Captain of the Wrestling Team comes with a lot of responsibility, but being able to help the younger wrestlers is an honor, to watch and help them grow, and being a team captain is a big accomplishment, knowing I'm a role model for others."
- Antonio Parker

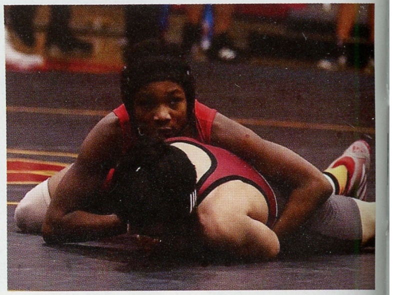
"My role on the team changed how everyone looked at me, and how I looked at myself. The whole team is counting on me to help and show them how to wrestle smoother. It is a lot of responsibility."
- Merrick Stockwell

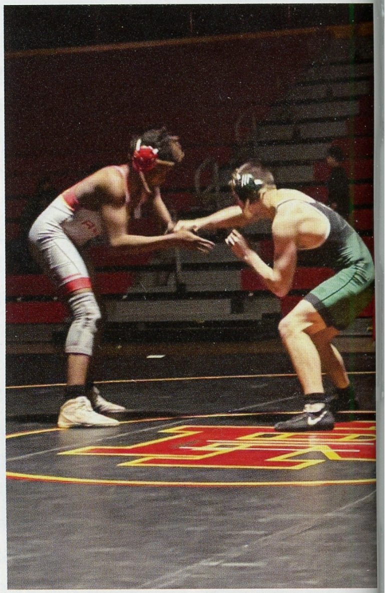
"My favorite part about being a manager would be being a part of the team's success, and witnessing the growth of the team for every win and loss. I take pride in what I do, and wouldn't trade it for anything else, knowing I take in their rise is incredibly rewarding."
- Bernice Irakoze

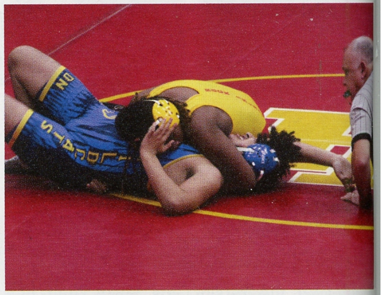
"I got into wrestling managing during my 8th grade year, and I've done it the past three years because it allows me to connect with plenty of different people. Wrestling also allows me to be involved in an extra curricular activity that can teach me new things about people, and see the behind the scenes of what the sport consists of."
- Ruby Marceleno

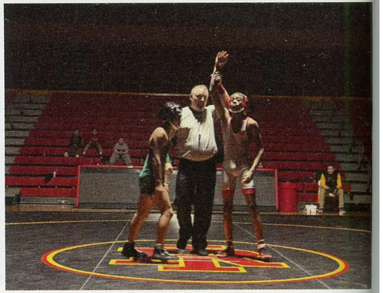
"My favorite part about being a wrestling manager is being able to support the team. I enjoy helping keep things organized, whether it's tracking stats, making sure the team has everything they need, or just being there to cheer them on."
- Aniya House

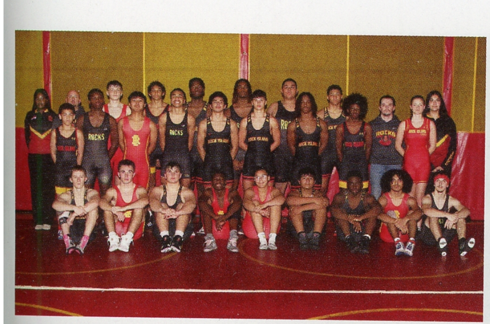
IN THE *coaches' seat*

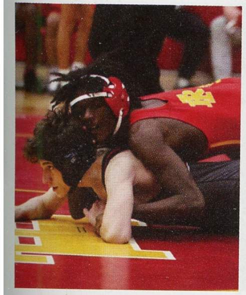
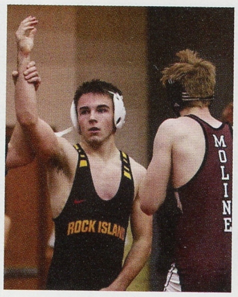


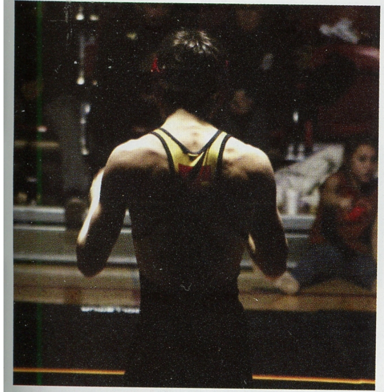


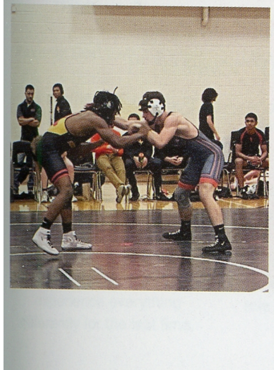
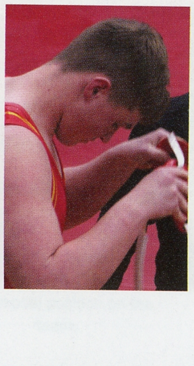
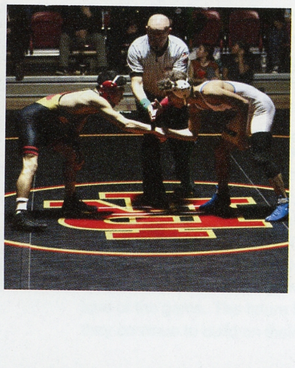








NEXT SEASON

Starts now

This was a tough season for the Rock Island Wrestling Team, with so many newcomers coming in, learning new skills, as well as learning to have the Rocky Wrestling mentality. Coach Joel Stockwell has led the Rocks for a long time, and he loves what he does. Stockwell explained the goals for the season, stating, "Our goals have always been the same, we want to develop life champions, as well as get as many individuals to the post season as possible." Rock Island Wrestling has always had the same goals- to make champions on and off the mat, no matter what the season leads to.

Despite the challenges, there was a lot to be proud of this season. Stockwell explained the achievements of the team, stating, "We placed 3rd in Conference, crowning 4 Conference Champs- Merrick Stockwell, Rowan Stockwell, Antonio Parker, and Angelo Parker. We also advanced 5 individuals to Sectionals, and ended the season with 2 State alternates." Rock Island has always had a lot of success in wrestling, even though they didn't have any State placers this year. Stockwell stated that, "Unfortunately, we did not make the necessary improvements needed to be competitive by the end of the season. We plan to work hard this off season to ensure as many wrestlers as possible are able to achieve their goals next season."

Overall, even though this season is finished, the off season starts now, which the Rocks will be prepared for. Stockwell remained optimistic about the future, stating, "The positive is we have many young wrestlers showing up and hoping to make their mark in the program. I hope the team is able to improve their wrestling technique, but more importantly, their mentality. We need to be more competitive."

Dear Wrestling,

"Being part of Rocky Wrestling, I feel, has made me tougher and a better person, mentally and physically. Rocky Wrestling gives me a lot of opportunities at being successful in life, making new friends, and making connections with friends. So, I really love and appreciate being a part of Rocky Wrestling."

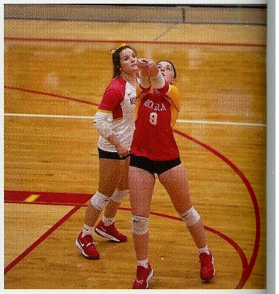
Sincerely,

Maricio Parker

MORE THAN A *number*

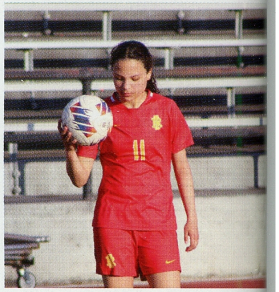
"I wear the number 12 because it's the same number that I've worn since I was a little kid."
- Grant Stewart, 12

"Anthony Rizzo was my favorite baseball player growing up, so I looked up to him, and decided on the number 44."
- Grace Vidmar, 12



"My grandpa and I picked it as my lucky number when I first started softball 9 years ago."
- Lily McDaniel, 12

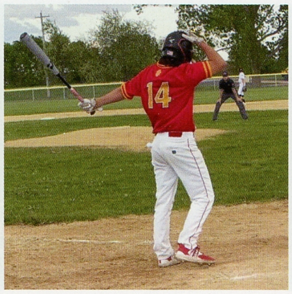
"I'm number 8 because my best friend, who goes to a different school, wears the number 8."
- Madison Carroll, 12



"I wear the number 12 because I was born on the 12th."
- Reagan Hawotte, 12

"To me, it represents looking up to my older brother. I always watched him play sports growing up, and he wore it. So, I decided to wear the same."
- Kampbell Allen, 11

"My grandpa's birth date, who passed away when I was young, was the 17th. He was very special to me."
- Abbagale Lieber, 12



"I wear number 14 because of Ernie Banks, and our last names match."
- Carson Banks, 12

MEMORABLE moments

"The overnight stay for the Conference meet."
- Allegrah Sutter, 10

"Watching the last group finish up at TPC Deere Run to see if I made it into Top 10."
- Lillian McDaniel, 12

"The night before the Western Big 6 Meet, hanging out in our hotel room."
- Jozie Kerr, 12

"Having fun and making new friends."
- Alayna Mathews, 10

"Making it to Sectionals."
- Mallory Hudnall, 11

Senior SPOTLIGHT

Lillian McDaniel, 3 Year Varsity Letter Winner

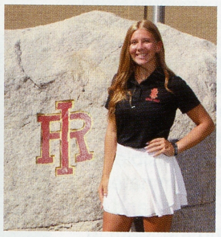
Favorite Course: TPC Deere Run

Favorite Golf Ball: Callaway

Favorite Pro Golfer: Bryson DeChambeu

What does it mean to be a senior on the golf team?

With it being my last, I'm taking the chance to soak everything up and experience everything differently for the last time.



Jozie Kerr, 4 Year Varsity Letter Winner

Favorite Course: Fyre Lake

Favorite Golf Ball: USA Soccer ball print from Callaway

Favorite Pro Golfer: Scottie Scheffler

What does it mean to be a senior on the golf team?

It means a lot, being able to be a leader and take on a role model position on the team.

SWINGING FOR success

The Girls Golf season was a year of growth and achievement, marked by impressive individual progress and team accomplishments. Throughout the season, each golfer showed dedication and resilience, with both experienced players and newcomers improving steadily from start to finish. "I would say the proudest moment was the growth that each girl made," said Coach Hudnall. "We had some veteran golfers who played well all season, and new girls who made improvements throughout the entire year."

The team reached a major milestone with two individuals advancing to the Sectional Meet. "Getting to Sectionals for the second year was something I'll be proud of for a long time, disappointed neither of us didn't make it farther than that, but proud of us, and all we've accomplished, nonetheless," stated Kerr. The recent launch of the junior high program also brought in six young golfers, one of whom even qualified for the State Tournament, shows promise for the program's future.

Looking ahead, Coach Hudnall has big goals, including, "Continuing the junior high program will help grow the high school program. It would be amazing to keep sending golfers to Sectionals, and maybe even to State," Hudnall explained. With several talented WB6 players graduating, next season holds great potential for the team to shine.

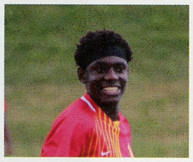
Coach Hudnall encourages any aspiring golfers to take advantage of opportunities to play over the summer. "Play golf - there are plenty of options: First Tee, Jr. PGA, junior cards at the local clubs. The biggest thing is to try and play once a week," she stated.

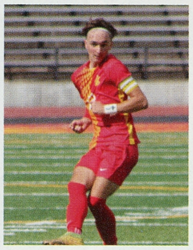
As this season wrapped up, the Girls Golf Team looks back on a year filled with growth, friendships, and the love of the game. The future is bright for this team, as they continue to build on their success.

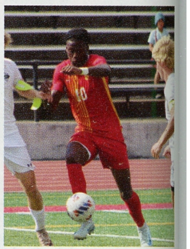
Dear Girls Golf

"Thank you for an unforgettable four years. You've taught me patience, resilience, and the idea that hard work pays off. You've shaped me in ways I will carry forever, and I'm grateful for every lesson, win, and challenge you have allowed me to experience."

Sincerely,
Jozie Kerr



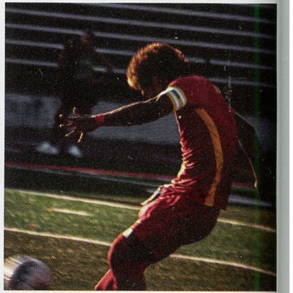


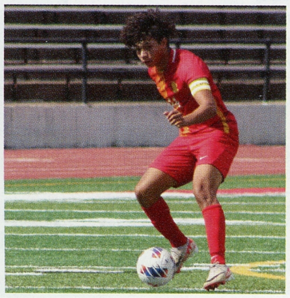


varsity CAPTAINS

"To me, it means that I have to be level headed at all times, and be communicating with my team, and a leader on and off the pitch."
- Omar Sosa

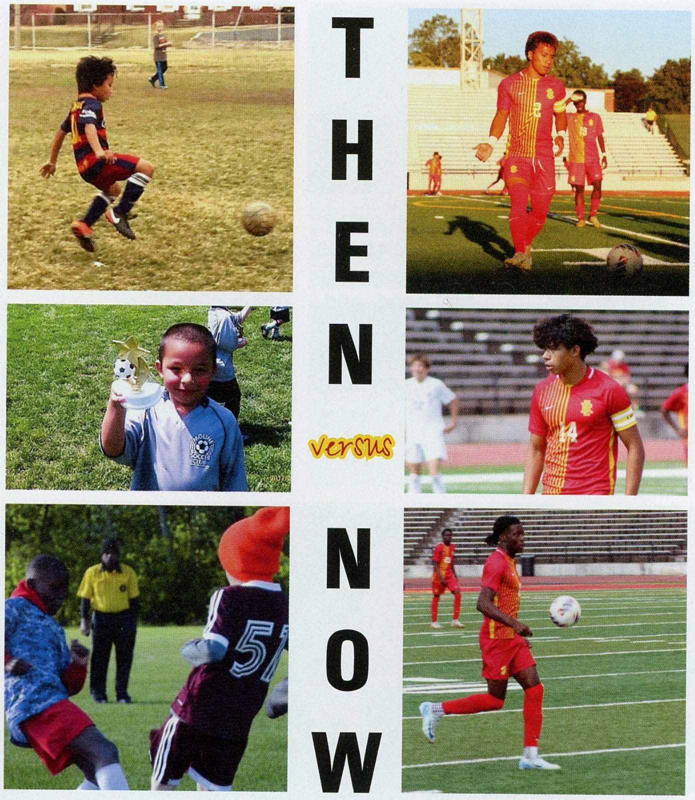
"A team captain is a member of a sports team who is chosen to be the leader, both on and off the field. The team captain is responsible for motivating teammates, leading by example, and often representing the team in discussions with referees and coaches."
- Richard Niyonzima





"To me, it means that I need to be a role model for my teammates, coaches, and fans watching. It also means that I need to stand up for them when needed."
- Grant Stewart

"Being a captain means leading and guiding a team, making decisions, and setting an example for others to follow, and putting your body on the line for the team."
- Ler Bwe



ONE FOR *the books*

The 2024 season was a very successful one for the Rock Island Boys' Soccer Team. The team went 9-7, overall, and placed 3rd in the Conference, with a record of 5-2. The team went on to win their first round in the Regional Playoff game against Bradley-Bourbonnais in a PK shootout.

During the season, many players showed amazing leadership and determination to their team. Notable leaders included Ben Goeh, who took charge as an offensive leader, finishing the season with 18 goals and 6 assists in only 13 games. Ler Bwe was noted as the defensive leader, as well.

The team worked hard to better themselves and each other. Gunnar Carroll came out of his "retirement" and earned his spot on the defensive line. Abanga Asukulu, a sophomore, earned his starting position as goalkeeper, and made some unbelievable saves that kept the team in the games. Nelson Htoo played some very meaningful minutes and has a great opportunity to have even more growth in the next season. One last outstanding player was Jacques Byabele, who took on many difficult tasks on the defensive side, Coach Vroman explained, that he did while being a sophomore, which creates higher expectations for him for next season.

The 2024 season was a memorable one for the Rocks. Coach Vroman stated that one of his favorite moments was watching the boys sing and dance before their game against Beecher. Overall, Coach Vroman's goal was to have every player on the team improve in some aspect, and their season results show that that goal was not only met, but was exceeded. Coach Vroman wanted to leave a legacy with the Rocks, and stated, "I don't think about a personal legacy as a coach, but I do preach to the players about their legacy. We speak about leaving the jersey in a better place than when they received it, and this group of seniors certainly did that. I couldn't be more proud."

SOPHOMORE *spotlight*

"Making Varsity as an underclassman is an exhilarating experience. It often means you've demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and potential. Playing among older teammates can be thrilling and intimidating. You'll likely face higher expectations and more intense competition, but it is also a fantastic opportunity to learn and grow. The camaraderie and support from teammates, combined with the pride of representing your school, makes the hard work and challenges worthwhile."

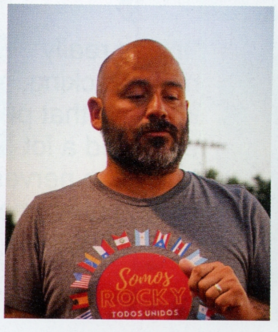
- Jacques Byabele

Dear Boys Soccer,

"Playing soccer at the high school level has been an incredible journey. It has not only allowed me to develop my athletic abilities, but also taught me valuable life skills. The rigorous training sessions and competitive matches have instilled in me a sense of discipline and perseverance. These qualities have translated into other areas of my life, helping me excel academically, and manage my time effectively. More over, the friendships and bonds formed with my teammates have been one of the most rewarding aspects of my high school experience. The sense of camaraderie and mutual support we've built has created a strong community that I will always cherish. We've celebrated victories, and learned from our defeats together, and these shared experiences have strengthened our resilience and teamwork. It has been an incredible opportunity to be a part of the high school soccer team, which has been a transformational experience that I will always be grateful for."

Sincerely,

Ben Goeh



"The work you put in determines the success that you see. Our team has done an incredible job in preparing ourselves for this moment, and it is wonderful to see that the hard work they put in during the summer is paying off towards the end of the season."

- Coach Vroman

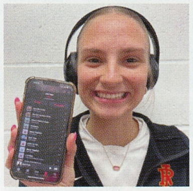
TEAM SUPERSTITIONS

"My superstition is I have to do the same hairstyle for every single game."
- Olivia Samuelson

"I'm always listening to country music before every game."
- Isabella Spurgetis

"Chewing gum before the game helps me stay focused, and calms my nerves."
- Man Nuam

"I always have to eat a quick snack before it's game time."
- Reagan Hawotte



"My game day slick back helps me look good, feel good, and play good."
- Addison Bomelyn

"I'm superstitious about my pre-game playlist."
- Aubrey Doss

UNDER~~CLASSMEN~~ captains

"Being a captain as a junior is a great feeling! Knowing my coaches and teammates are looking up to me helps me be a better leader for the upcoming year."

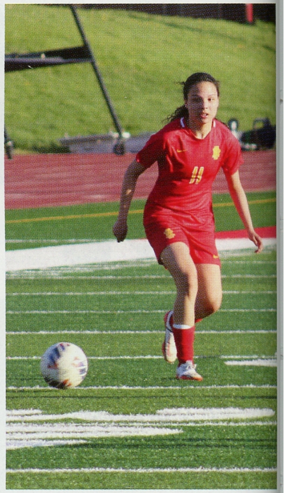
Olivia Samuelson

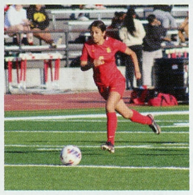
"I think that being handed that captain's band before a game is such a confidence boost, and really gives me the reassurance I need to play my best game for the team."

AJ Stewart

"It was really nerve-racking, at first, knowing that people expected a lot of me, but those nerves helped push me to be the best athlete I can be."

Reagan Hawotte





BEYOND THE GOAL

BEYOND THE GOAL

BEYOND THE GOAL

The Rock Island High School Girls Soccer Program focuses on building strong athletes through teamwork, discipline, and community involvement. Coach Vroman stated, “This past season, the team worked to improve conditioning, formation, and game strategies, aiming to become more competitive.”

Standout players throughout the season included Olivia Samuelson, with Coach Williams explaining, “She is a key part of our offense.” AJ Stewart was also a leader, as one of the top goalkeepers in the conference.

With hard work and a passion for improvement, Coach Vroman added, “We hope to see success in the upcoming season.”

Dear Girls Soccer,

"For me, Rock Island Soccer holds some of the best memories of my life. From the ever-lasting friendships, to the laughs on bus rides, I can't think of a better thing to have in my high school experience. Putting on my jersey before every game brings me so much joy, and for that, I thank Rock Island soccer."

Sincerely,

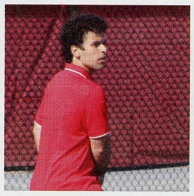
Kampbell Allen

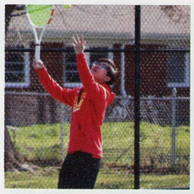
Dear Tennis,

"Thank you for pushing me on and off the court to be the best person I can be, for all of the new friends I made along the way, and fun nights on school buses."

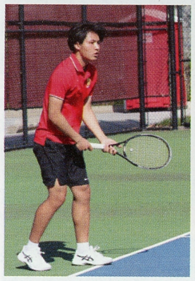
Sincerely,

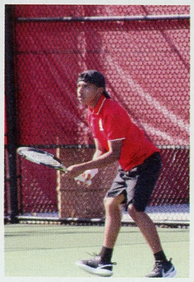
Tyler Whitten

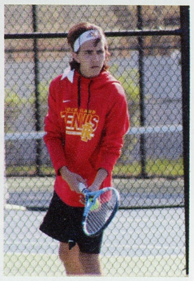




"A couple things I am going to miss about tennis is hanging out with everyone at practices. I'm also going to miss the bus rides to meets."
- Cody Wolf

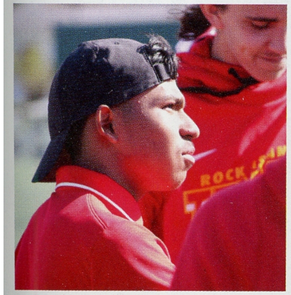


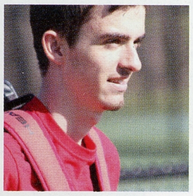


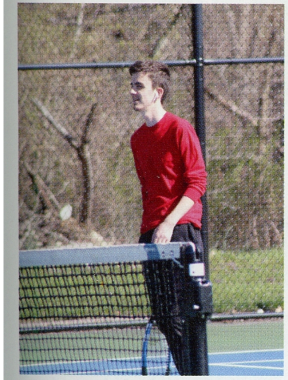


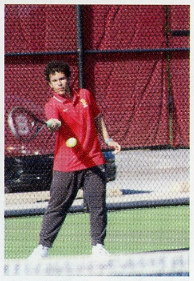
"I love playing tennis, and the unique mental complexity of the sport drew me to it. I like helping players learn the game, and understand how to construct a tennis point."
- Coach Gabany

GAME
point
A C E









ROCKING
on the court

The Boys' Tennis Team wrapped up their season with goals achieved and more lessons learned. "We finished in 4th out of 8 teams in Conference. We finished 3rd in singles at the IHSA Sectional Tennis Tournament," stated Coach Gabany. Nathaniel Cruz was Rocky's stand out athlete last season. "Nate Cruz, he was our #1 singles player, and was a junior last season," Coach Gabany said.

Cruz explained his process for success last season, and looks into this upcoming season. He made his own goals and encouraged himself each match. "My goal for my tennis career is to make it back to State, and, hopefully, get a scholarship for tennis," Cruz said. He pushed himself on and off of the court, and faced challenges, as well. "There were many challenges, but my biggest was getting over the mental hurdle of getting a win at the beginning of the season as the #1 for the team, and having the mental strength to win the decisive match," Cruz said.

Coach Gabany faced his own challenges with the team, but overcame them with pride. "Inexperience is our biggest challenge because many players only play in season, and have not played before high school. We overcome them through hard work and practice. Repetition is key and learning tennis shots/ strokes," Coach Gabany said.

The team keeps setting goals and improving on the court, making sure they achieve every goal that comes their way, as they prepare for next season.

MEMORIES in the match

"My favorite memory during a match is when I caught a cramp in the second set of Sectionals to go to State that helped me relax to finish the match."
- Nathaniel Cruz-Oliveros, 12

"My favorite memory during a match was probably the time when I was in a doubles match, and the ball I was serving got stuck in my racket."
- Tyler Whitten, 11

"My favorite memory during a match is the friendship and brotherhood that I experienced. Even in a few short weeks, it felt like I knew the whole team for years."
- Myaels Hoffeditz, 10

Dear Girls Basketball,

"I would start it off by saying thank you for all the lessons they have taught me. The program gave me another family, life long friendships, and mentors that I very much appreciate and needed. It has brought me so many opportunities in high school and moving forward into my future."

Sincerely,
Layla Rice, 12

SHOOTING THROUGH *adversity*

Adversity struck early for the the Lady Rocks after one of their team leaders, Junior, Ka'Zaria Bell, was injured. She had a very strong impact on the team, and Head Coach Henry Hall stated that the team was "really built around her talents." In spite of this, the team kept working hard to be better every day during the season.

The season may have started off a little rough, but the Lady Rocks found a way to persevere. They had some tough battles throughout the season, with some hard loses against Sterling in overtime, and against Normal Community for the Regional Championship. But, they also had some notable victories against Galesburg, Quincy, and they beat Moline for the Regional semi-finals.

After Bell's injury, other players had to step up to help fill other roles. The two senior team captains, Layla Rice and Amyah Jackson "did a wonderful job being leaders for us all year," explained Hall. Besides the designated team captains, Coach Hall believed that other players also stepped up during the season, including Jordyn Randle (Sophomore), Makayla Curry (Junior), and Da Nai Jah Bragg (Junior). Along with the leaders, there were also some newcomers who made a positive impact on the team. The players mentioned being, Mallory Hudnall (Junior) and Jaimyiah McNeal (Sophomore).

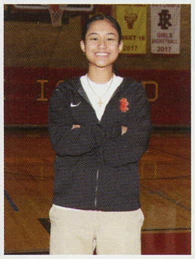
This season had lots of ups and downs, but through it all, the team stuck together as a family. "We just continued every day to stick together and get 1% better every day. These ladies were very proud to wear that Lady Rocks jersey, and that is what it is all about," Hall stated.

SENIORS

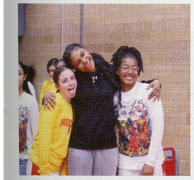
Amyah Jackson

Kamya McDuffy

Layla Rice



September Naing



PRE - GAME routines

"I pray before every game, and I also like to listen to music to get into the right mindset."
- Jordyn Randle

"I like to listen to music in the locker room with my teammates."
- Mallory Hudnall

"My basketball pre-game is listening to music and just trying to relax, but also getting pumped up with my teammates before coaches walk in the locker room."
- Daniella Leahy

"My pre-game routine is to first get my homework done. Then, I chill with my teammates, make TikToks, and, sometimes, eat with them. But, I also get pre-game shots up, and then, once it's time, I go into the locker room and get dressed."
- Jaimyiah McNeal

PASSING THROUGH memories

"My favorite memory this basketball season was going up to the State Farm Tournament because I got to bond with my teammates, and made a lot of fun memories."
Da Nai Jah Bragg, 11

"One of my favorite memories is when we beat Kewanee, and poured water on Coach Hall."
Makayla Curry, 11

"My favorite memory this season was going to State Farm. It was a lot of fun, spending time with my teammates between games."
Aviana Miller, 11

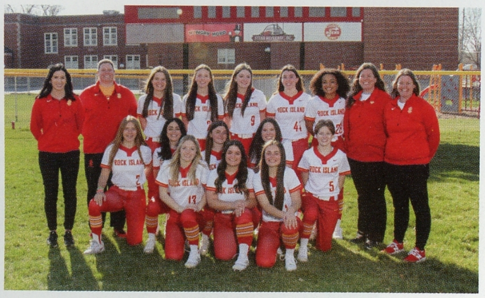
Varsity TEAM

Sophomore TEAM

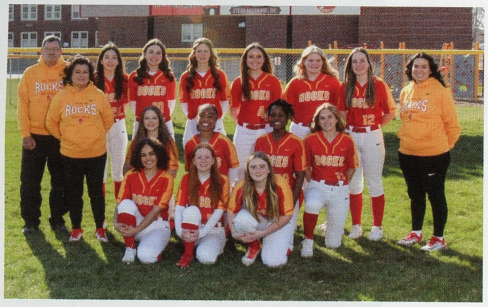
Freshman TEAM

traditional ROCKS

The Lady Rocks Basketball Team celebrated their 50th anniversary.

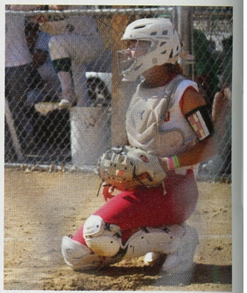


VARSITY team



JUNIOR VARSITY team

Julie Hudnall, Head Varsity Coach



MAKING THE MOST MEMORIES

"My favorite memory was beating Moline, and watching Jo run into my arms after she scored."
- A'rion Lonergan, 12

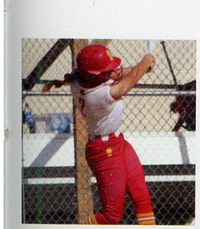
"My favorite memory was A'rion throwing out the runner from center, me tagging her, and it taking us into extra innings."
- Jozie Kerr, 12

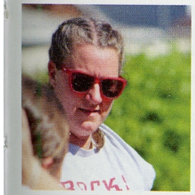
"My favorite memory was beating United Township at home."
- Madison Carroll, 12

"My favorite memory was when we played Geneseo, sat in the bus, and sang during our rain delay, then hitting 5 home runs as a team."
- Addyson Lincoln, 10

"My favorite memory was beating Moline in extra innings, and getting to celebrate after the walk off."
- Lillian McDaniel, 12

"My favorite memory was hitting a grand slam and getting closer with my teammates."
- Maddie Franks, 10





RISING TO THE challenge

The 2024 season was a remarkable journey for the Rock Island Softball Team, marked by thrilling victories, resilient comebacks, and a strong sense of unity. Coach Julie Hudnall reflected on the year with pride, particularly in how the team grew, both in skill and in spirit. "The seniors were great teammates," Hudnall shared. "Alaina had a great hitting season for us, and came up clutch in a couple of different games. Chloe and Amalia answered the call when we needed them." The seniors' leadership and dedication created a lasting impact on the team, and set the tone for the season.

Team chemistry was at the heart of the Rocks' success. Senior Jozie Kerr noted, "I think we improved tremendously in our team chemistry and our respect for each other's knowledge of the game. It definitely played a factor in our success this season." The players' support for one another, and their respect for each other's skills helped fuel their resilience and determination on the field.

The season saw improvement in key areas that helped the Rocks stay competitive in tough games. "Our hitting improvement was a key factor, as well as being able to throw different pitchers at teams," Hudnall said. These enhancements allowed the Rocks to take on various challenges, and keep opponents on their toes.

The season was filled with memorable games, but a few stood out. In their opening match up, the Rocks rallied from a major deficit to beat Sherrard 9-8, setting the tone for the season. A similar late-game comeback against United Township showcased their ability to rise to the occasion in critical moments. Another standout game came when the Rocks defeated Moline in extra innings, a moment Kerr cherished. "My favorite moment from this season was when we beat Moline in extra innings. Just getting to celebrate with everyone felt so good," she recalled.

With an impressive season behind them, the Rocks can look back with pride on their growth and accomplishments. The 2024 season was defined by teamwork, resilience, and unforgettable moments - a foundation that will continue to drive the Rock Island Softball Program forward.

2024 Conference Record

Third Place

VS Moline	W 2-1 (9)
VS Alleman	W 17-6
VS East Moline	W 7-5
@ Geneseo	W 11-0
VS Sterling	L 2-3
@ Moline	L 0-11
@ Sterling	L 0-2 (8)
@ Alleman	W 11-1
VS Galesburg	W 14-1
@ East Moline	L 10-13 (8)
VS Geneseo	W 6-3
VS Quincy	W 8-2
@ Quincy	L 7-8
@ Galesburg	W 11-0

ALL - CONFERENCE rocks

FIRST team	A'rion Lonergan-Shinskia, Junior Outfielder Madison Carroll, Junior Pitcher
SECOND team	Jozie Kerr, Junior Catcher
Third team	Alaina Kress, Senior Infielder Lillian McDaniel, Junior Pitcher

Dear Softball,

"You gave resilience. You showed me strength, and you taught me patience. You gave me friendships, life lessons, and memories that I will hold on to forever. I'm grateful for all you have given me, and will continue to give me."

Sincerely,
A'rion Lonergan

GAME DAY hair

Madison Carroll

Mallory Hudnall

Alaina Kress

Jozie Kerr

A'rion Lonergan

Ella Leahy

TEAM leaders

"I feel confident about leading the team. I know almost all of the girls and have been around them. They are all extremely talented individuals, so leading them comes easy. Being viewed as a team leader inspires me to be the best version of myself on and around the team."

- Kylie Melchi, 12

"Leading this team is something new since everyone turns to us and asks our own experiences with being on the team. While as a leader with the team that we have this year, it made me rise to the occasion to help many of the talented girls. We have learned multiple perspectives, which helps me be more knowledgeable."

- Keziah Anderson, 12

RUN like the wind

The Lady Rocks had another phenomenal season, with so many newcomers, as 27 girls joined this difficult and tough sport of cross country, and all had many PRs. Kylie Melchi was team captain this year for the Lady Rocks. She has run XC for 3 years during her time at Rocky, and she really stepped up to being team captain. Melchi had a positive outlook on the season, and especially the amount of girls who came out this year, stating, "It made Cross Country more fun, and the team more fun, and there were a lot of beneficial factors." Similarly, Coach Susana Williams was excited about her team's numbers, explaining, "Amazing!! This has been the biggest turn out of girls to be part of the Cross Country Team since I have coached." With such a big team, there were a lot of positive opportunities that happened throughout the season, and a ton to build on for upcoming years.

This season, the Lady Rocks had a lot of successes, but a major one was at the Geneseo Meet. Not only did the team get first at the meet, but there were many athletes who medaled at this meet, too. Melchi commented on the team's success, stating, "The Geneseo Meet was really good. I think it was a confidence booster for everybody because so many people medaled at that meet, and I was really proud of the team that everybody ran hard enough to get a medal." Williams also commented on the girls' success at Conference, stating, "The girls finished 5th in Conference. Not the outcome we hoped for, but the girls who competed really stepped up during the Conference race. This led to a better outcome at Regionals. Although we did not have any qualifiers this year, the team moved up in rankings as a team, and will be a strong team the next year." The ladies have had an amazing season this year, with so many different accomplishments as individuals, and as a hard working team.

Another contributing factor to the Lady Rocks' success this year was that the Rocks got a new assistant coach this year, Matthew Yeager. This is Yeager's first time coaching the Girls' XC Team at Rocky, and he had some very amazing and positive things to say about his time as a coach. "I loved coaching, you girls," he explained. "I've coached most of them either in junior high and high school track, so being able to continue makes me feel amazing." Yeager explained how proud he was of the team, stating, "I'm most proud of the team dynamic. Cross Country has always felt like family to me, and seeing you girls continue that with each other makes me incredibly proud. Winning is great, but seeing you all be good people is just perfect."

Dear Cross Country,

"Being a part of the Cross Country Team means so much to me. Being a part of that team that is so supportive of each other and builds each other up is so special. My team has helped push me to become the athlete I am today. The whole team hypes each other up on our good and bad days, spending time together at meets, team dinners, and practicing together. This team has made my high school career better, and has pushed me to do things I never thought I could accomplish."

Sincerely,

Amelia Heine

ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL FIELDHOUSE

ROCK ISLAND
CROSS COUNTRY

SENIOR spotlight

"Last year, when I got my first medal at Geneseo."

- Keziah Anderson

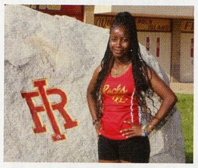
"Team dinners are always really fun because there's obviously food and a bunch of activities and team bonding opportunities."
- Kylie Melchi

"Team bonding at team dinners."

- Olivia Kargl

"Just how nice the team is, and meeting new people."

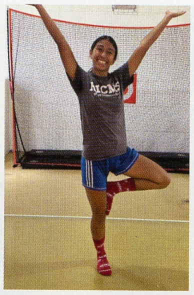
- Cecilia Chavez



"My favorite memory about cross country is getting to run with my teammates, pushing each other in practice, and cheering for everyone during the race."
- Lucie Cornelio

"My top memory would have to be playing volleyball at team dinners."

- Makyah Daniels



SILLY socks

"I think it is really fun as a team thing. It's really fun team bonding, when we do it. It always gets laughs and giggles, and it really takes your mind off the race, and it gives you something positive to think about instead of negative, because you always need something positive on race days. Wearing our creative and silly socks during a race is just a way for us to have fun while competing."
- Sonia Williams

All-AMERICAN cheerleaders

"Making All-American felt good, knowing that my hard work paid off."
- Isabella Adner, 12

"I was so anxious about trying out. Hearing my name get called, I immediately felt the biggest sense of relief."
- Francesca Guyette, 11

"I was nervous, at first, but when I found out I got the award, I was relieved."
- LaRayah Carroll, 11

"I was so happy, but I was shocked because I didn't expect it."
- Odile Kakozi, 9

"It was unexpected because I didn't think I would make it as a freshman."
- Leia Manning, 9

"Making All-American as a senior meant a lot, knowing all of my years of cheer paid off."
- Neveah McQuay, 12

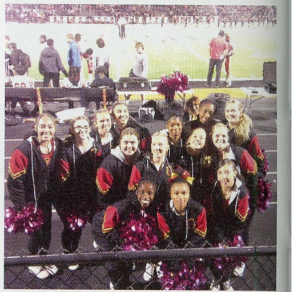
"It felt exhilarating because I didn't expect to get it."
- Ninah Payney, 10

FROM THE BOW to the toe

The 2024 Football Cheer season had a great kick off by coming home as Camp Champs! Over the summer, the team went to UCA Camp at WIU, where they learned new material, and competed with other teams for the Top Banana (a big inflatable banana that resembles a trophy). Coach Patricia Gallegos said, "I had a few big goals for this season: win Camp Champs, execute an entertaining routine for Homecoming, and have a successful Youth Cheer Clinic." And, that is exactly what the team did!

Although the girls looked flawless on the sidelines, it's not as easy as it seems. The week of Homecoming for the Cheer Squad was overloaded with long practices and early mornings. "It is always tough to find time to practice on the field, so that they know their formations, timing, etc., when football, soccer, and band are also using the field for their respective sport. We ended up coming in for early morning practices during Homecoming Week to ensure that they were ready, and they rocked their performance!" said Coach G.

The 2024 Football season was a success for the team. "I am very happy with how our season turned out. I'm very proud that the girls worked together to make our season a success. Every year, I tell the cheerleaders that they have two jobs: to encourage the teams they were cheering for and to hype the crowd, and encourage school spirit," Coach G. explained. Once again, the Rocks brought the energy to the field every Friday night, engaging the crowd and the football team.

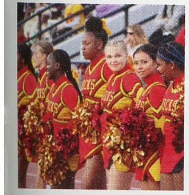


new LOOK

"We haven't had new uniforms in about 5 years, so getting new uniforms feels amazing! The new uniforms were inspired by Texas Tech's uniforms, and I'm excited to try a new design, using the RI symbol, instead of our usual 'Rocks' on our shell."
- Coach Patricia Gallegos

Junior Varsity TEAM

ROCKS
TUNNEL 2



"I want to leave my positive energy I have on the field. And, for people to know to always have fun"
- Mylie Shook

"I want people to remember to believe possibilities are endless, and never give up."
- Nevaeh McQuay

"I want people to know that high school goes by fast, so make the most of it."
- Dylan Frantz

"I want people to know to not just stick to one sport or club. If you want to do something, then do it."
- Karli Barker

"It's okay to join a sport you don't know anything about because, in the end, it builds new friendships."
- Cendrine Bukeneza

"I want people to know they can step out of their comfort zone."
- Riley Gray

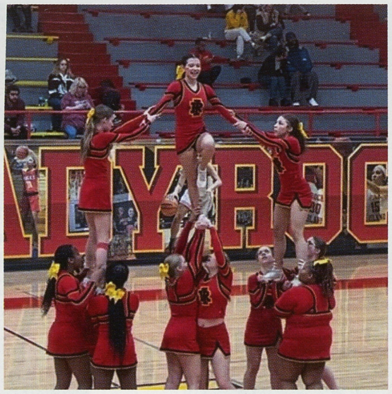
SENIOR legacies 25

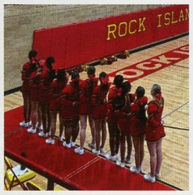
Varsity TEAM

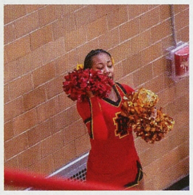
Dear Rock Island Cheer,

"Thank you for giving me a place where I could feel welcomed. Being on this cheer team has made me more comfortable with myself, and a place where I am surrounded by friends. Cheering on the football field has brought me so much joy the past few years, and I can't believe it is already over."

Sincerely,
Mylie Shook







BLOOD, SWEAT AND cheers

"I love cheering with the people I'm around. Everyone on the team loves each other, and we support each other, no matter what. I love the energy and the true compassion between each of us."

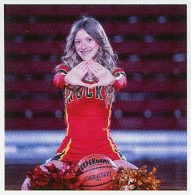
LaRayah Carroll, 11

"I love that I get to make a lot of new friendships, all being different from each other, and that we grew a bond together, apart from the sport, itself. I love that we get to make inside jokes and have fun. Even when practice gets stressful, we all have eachother's back. You will always see us on the sideline, laughing and giggling with each other because we aren't just teammates, we are a family."

Gracie James, 11

"I love making friends and all the memories with my team that I can cherish forever."

Grace Driskill, 10



"The thing I love most about cheering with this team is how everyone supports one another, everyone gives the same amount of respect, and if someone is down, the whole team works together as one, to bring the mood up and make things better."

Brooklynn Ericson, 9

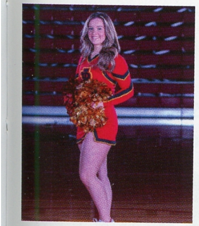
Dear Basketball Cheer,

"You have brought me out of my shell, made my boring schedule busy, and helped me gain a new passion. Being a cheerleader has made me a more supportive person, overall. Not only do we root for the basketball team, but we root for each other. Being a cheerleader has made me more disciplined and boosted my confidence, while also gaining a group of forever friends, making my experience at Rocky way more important and memorable for me."

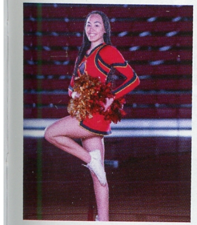
Sincerely

Malaya Haley

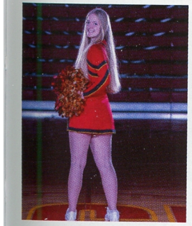
ONE LAST
rocktown spirit



"I feel sad it is coming to an end, but Cheer has given me multiple opportunities that I'm thankful for, as well as making friends that will last a lifetime."
Isabella Adner, 12



"As my last day cheering for Rocky approaches, I am reminded of all the genuine friendships I've been so lucky to make. I will continue to smile big and always appreciate every opportunity I was given as a Rocky Cheerleader. I will never stop cheering loud and proud for Rock Island High School, wherever I'll be in the future."
Nevaeh McQuay, 12

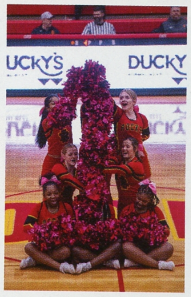


"I'm going to miss my friends and cheering at the games, and showing off our stunts every game."
Karli Barker, 12

Dear Basketball Cheer,

"Being a part of this team has been an honor. I really love it because it boosts my confidence, which then, helps me in the real world. Cheerleading leads me to build a strong sense of leadership and teamwork skills. I also really love it because it helps me to make life long friends. It's an honor to be on this team because it feels like a family, and I will really miss this feeling when the season ends because this is my senior year. Cheerleading has also impacted me because it has taught me good technique. I plan on going to college for cheerleading, so I can take that technique I learned here in high school into college, and use it in college. I really appreciate RIHS Basketball Cheer for teaching me many good things I can use in the real world and in cheerleading."

Sincerely
Nevaeh McQuay



BEAUTY & bows

"My favorite part of our comp uniforms would probably be the rhinestones because they make our performances prettier!"
- Vanessa Boswell

"Overall, I like the whole uniform. It's comfortable to wear. It fits well, and the rhinestones are cute."
- Emma Tollefson

"My favorite part of my comp uniform is the sparkles. I think it's cool to have something that makes my uniform stand out from the rest."
- Gracie James

HITTING zero

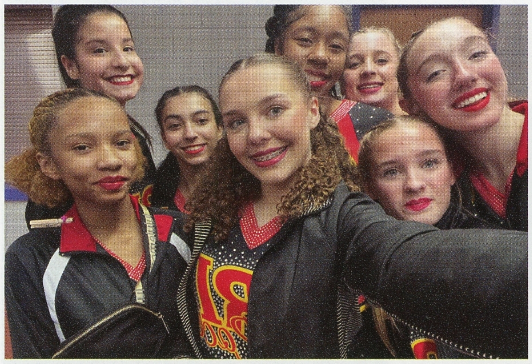
The Rock Island Competition Cheer Team has had a very successful and fulfilling season this year.

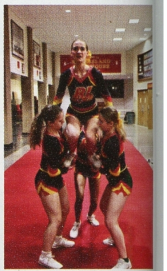
The team's second-place finish in their initial competition significantly boosted the team's confidence, along with their resilience, which was one of the team's key strengths throughout the season. Coach Emily Peterson explained, "The most memorable part of the season was placing second place at our first competition. We went in open minded, and were ecstatic when we found out we placed at our first competition."

The girls also faced a lot of challenges, with many teammates becoming sick and ending their season early due to injuries. With that said, they did prevail, and went to Sectionals with only 5 people performing. Coach Gallegos explained, "We had to change our routine a few times due to team members being out with illness or injury. The team would come in for extra practices, and ensure that the necessary changes to stunts were safe, and that the routine still flowed with the new/ different formations. We ended up with just 5 girls on the mat at Sectionals because, with the injuries and illnesses, we were battling even up to the day of Sectionals. We felt that that was the safest call to make. We ended up having a few girls travel as alternates, and they are just as important to the team (even though they weren't performing) because they help with the atmosphere and crowd involvement. They helped ensure that the cheer was loud and engaging, and they helped make sure that their teammates performing kept up with the counts of the music."

This specific group of girls definitely made sure to balance their fun and their work. Some memorable parts of the season would be singing the routine music on the way home, and treating themselves to ice cream after competitions. Peterson was especially proud of the girls' ability to adapt, stating, "Whether it was losing teammates or having to redo a routine last minute, they came through and were open to changing things when needed for the team, as a whole."

The 2025 season ended with their last competition at Sectionals, where they placed 12th, beating Moline. The Rocky Competition Cheerleaders put in a lot of work this season, and are preparing for more next year.





STUNNING stunts

"One of my favorite stunts is an arabesque. It is simple, clean, and can be cool with different dismounts."
- Francesca Guyette

"My favorite stunt is a basket because I love seeing the height that it gets."
- LaRayah Carroll

Dear Competetion Cheer,

"Although I've only been on this team for two years, the experience has been nothing but unique. It's pushed me in ways I never thought of, taught me new skills, and got me out of my comfort zone. I love the nervous excitement right before I perform. No one will ever take this experience from me, and I will surely never forget my home on the competition team."

Sincerely,
LaRayah Carroll

GOLF GAME
strong

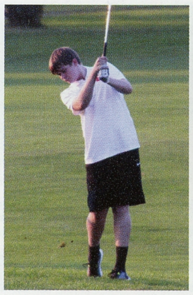
The Rock Island High School's Boys Golf Team finished 4th in the Conference in the 2024 season. They qualified the team out of Regionals for the Sectional Meet. This was the first time in fifteen years they accomplished that.

The top golfers and team leaders were seniors, Chase Hadley and Carson Banks.

Hadley made 1st Team All Conference for the 3rd straight year. Banks was Second Team All Conference, along with Ayden Braud.

This year's Varsity Squad featured quite a few veterans, which contributed to their success. Coach Craig Sharp said, "We had very few challenges this season. That is part of the reason it was our most successful team in quite a while. We had no injuries, no weather problems."

Coach Sharp mentioned, "The entire team making it to Sectionals was awesome. We made it by one stroke. Also, having three players on the All Conference Teams was cool. Only 12 players from 8 different teams make it, so having three was great."



Dear Boys Golf Team,

"Being a part of this organization was one of the best choices I've made at Rocky. The thing that impacted me the most was that it is more of an individual sport. I have always played team sports, so having full control of how well or how bad I played was nice. I had no one to blame but myself. My biggest regret was not playing all 4 years, but I'm still glad I gave it a try."

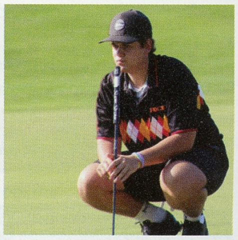
Sincerely, **Jake Osborn**

QUALIFIED ✓

FOR SECTIONALS AS A TEAM:

first time in 15 years

"My favorite memory from golf was placing second on Day 1 at Lick Creek."
- Carson Banks

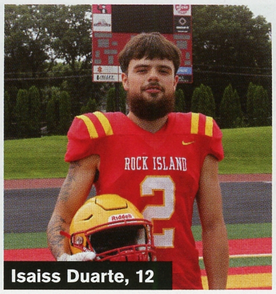


"My favorite memory from golf was when I made my hole in one, and when we went to Sectionals as a team."
- Chase Hadley

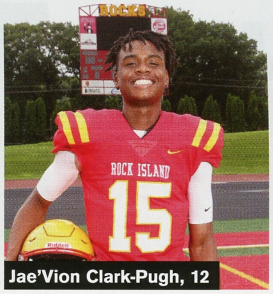
TEAM *captains*

ROCK ISLAND
52

Kevin Mayares, Jr. 12



Isaiss Duarte, 12



Jae'Vion Clark-Pugh, 12

ROCK ISLAND
9

V'Jay Garrard, 12

MAKING HISTORY
one kick at a time

Senior, Olivia Samuelson, has played football the past two years, and made history by being the first girl to score a point on the Varsity Football Team. On 8/30, the opening game of the Rocks' season, against the Minooka Indians, Head Coach Fritz Dieudonné, unexpectedly put Samuelson in.

Samuelson said, "I didn't even know I was going to be put in because Cortez (the Varsity starting kicker) had been kicking all game. I had so much adrenaline, I had no nerves at all." Samuelson had been working the past two years for this goal of her's. "It felt amazing to have all my friends and family there supporting me," she explained.

Dear Rocky Football,

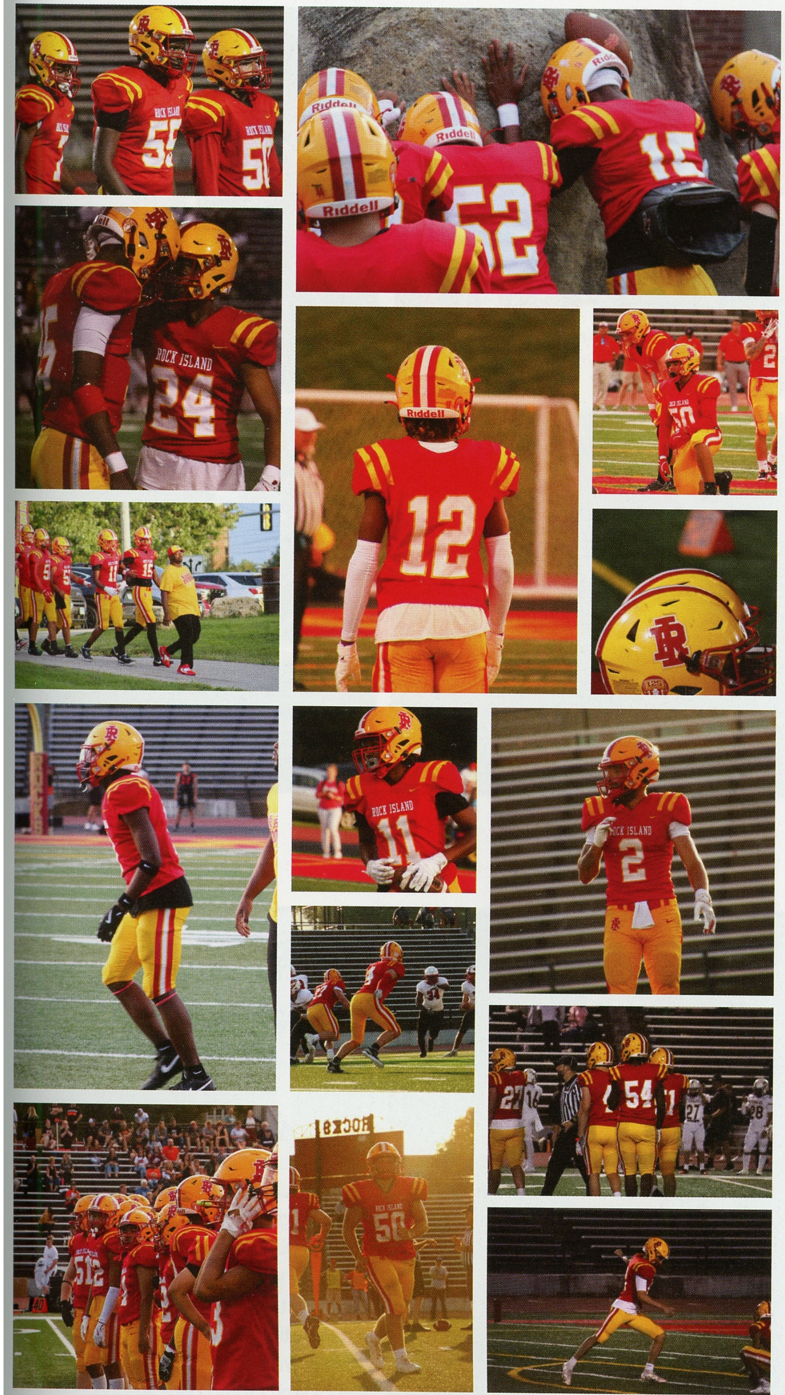
"It's is always a cool feeling playing and being a part of the Rock Island Football Program after watching them so much when I was younger. Us being so close in a brotherhood makes us the team we are today. We are always willing to stick together, even though our season hasn't gone the way we wanted it to. I am always happy to step on the field with my brothers, whether we win or lose."

ROCK ISLAND
55

Sincerely,
Myles Davis

Most Valuable Player

Kevin Mayares, Jr. and Santana Smith were awarded with the Shorty Almquist Award. This award is given to the athlete(s) who have the best leadership and who represent Rock Island Football the best.



PASSION PRIDE TRADITION

This year for the Rock Island Football Team, it was all about Pride, Passion, and Tradition. It was a rough year for the Rocks, but they stuck it through, and had pride throughout all of the games. They came together as a team, and made it through the season. Head Coach Fritz Dieudonné stated, "We simply must increase the volume of our reps prior to the start of the season."

Although it was a rough season for the Rocks, there were lots of positives. Dieudonné said, "Isaiss Duarte had the greatest impact on the team this season because he led the team in tackles, and even stepped in for the offense when he was needed to run the ball." Following that, he went on to say, "My favorite memory from the season was Olivia Samuelson making history by becoming the first female to score a Varsity point in 125 years of Rock Island Football."

The Rocks celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the Football Team this year. They brought back the traditional gold pants, as well as many alumni and former coaches as honorary captains in celebration of the 125th Anniversary. Dieudonné stated, "The wearing of the gold pants date back to the late 1930's, wearing gold pants on and off until 2014." It had been 10 seasons since the Rocks brought back the traditional Red and Gold look until this season. With that, every home game, the Rocks would have an honorary captain. They brought in several alumni that represented this program with pride, passion, and tradition.

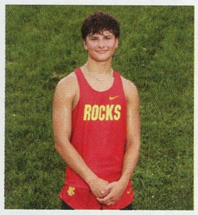
Isaiss Duarte, a senior, and captain for the Rocks said, "I feel like I have improved so much over the past 4 years. Learning different positions definitely helped because of the amount of playing time I got the past couple years." The bond of the team is like no other. The team goes through so much together, and it truly is like a brotherhood. Duarte stated, "I am going to miss playing with my teammates because I will never get to put on the pads with the same guys again."

THE FACES OF

the team

"It means a lot to be a leader on the team. I have been supported by some really great teammates and leaders. Knowing that I can be that encouragement for others makes time with teammates even more fun and meaningful."

- Gabe Mahn, 11

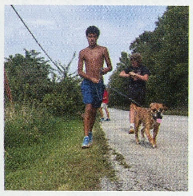


"To me, being a leader on the XC Team means to have fun with the team, but run fast, at the same time."

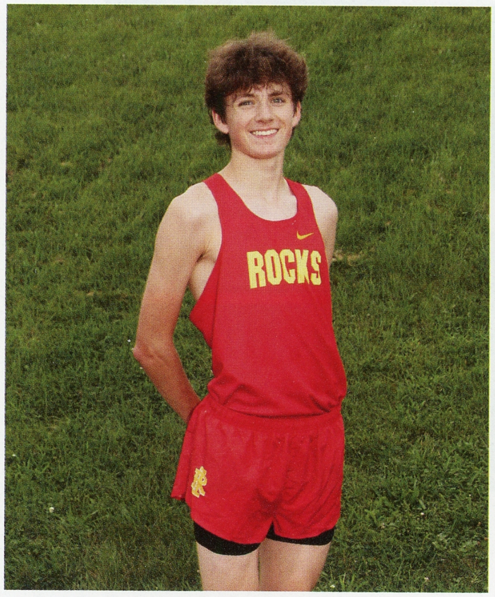
- Merrick Stockwell, 12

"It really means a lot to be on the Cross Country Team. Being surrounded by guys who elevate and push you through the sport is always a great support system to have, and I'm grateful for all of them. To be a leader is just being able to watch and help my teammates improve, which I think we all do, and it's a great environment."

- Elliot Batz, 10



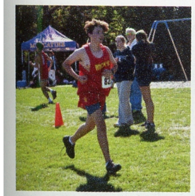
Running with dogs is a tradition that the team has done for many years now, and it's a way to help the local animal shelter by making sure that animals get their exercise. It's a fun alternative practice for the team, too!

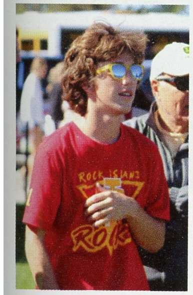


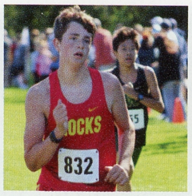
Being on the Cross Country Team means...

"Being part of the team means finding a group I can connect with, bond with, and run fast. To have friendly competition and have fun. And, to watch Coach Williams and Coach Griffin play around together."

- Lukas Heine, 12







"My favorite memory is the team dinners, and my favorite race was at Galesburg."

- Judah Kargl, 10

"My favorite memories from this season was our team dinners at my teammates' houses, and the Sterling Invite because I ran a 21 flat on a 5k course."

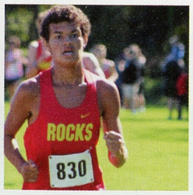
- Chase Jared, 11

"My favorite memory, this season, was winning my first meet ever at the beginning of the year at Barenville, and my favorite race was Geneseo."

- Steven Hernandez, 9

"My favorite memory is team dinner at my house. My favorite races were Sterling and Galesburg."

- Nolan Jared, 9



"My favorite memory is team dinner because I got to know my friends better, and for races, I am not sure because almost every course, I liked."

- Traeten Holtam, 9

"I had a very strong race at Richmond Hill on my birthday. My favorite memory is hanging out with the team at team dinners and during abs. Our team turned into a big family, over time."

- Jeremiah Evans, 9

"My favorite memory was going to the Dunes trip with my friends, and my favorite race was Metamora."

- Liam Muir, 10

"I took all of my races as a lesson. My favorite memory from the season is the whole season."
- Cylar Smith, 9

"My favorite race was the Moline Meet, where it was only a 2 mile, and I got 11 minutes flat on that course. And, my favorite memory was riding on the bus with my friends."

- Lucas McCall, 11

THE RACE
We ran

This year, the Rocks had a memorable season. With last year's seniors leaving, and the freshmen coming in, they had big shoes to fill. "The newcomers had a tremendous impact on the team dynamic and successes we've experienced this season. Three of the freshmen were in the Varsity lineup for the entire season," said Coach Jarrin Williams.

The boys worked hard during the summer and pushed themselves this entire season to reach their personal bests. "Some of the guys learned how to push themselves harder in practice, and some learned how to run smarter in races," said Coach Williams. To help improve their stamina and form, they pair up with someone that is close with them in height, and have the same abilities as each other, almost as if they're racing themselves.

The team placed 1st at the Limestone Meet in the beginning of the season, and placed 2nd at the Geneseo Meet. "The biggest amount of growth I saw from over the season is their confidence. The boys started to buy in and believe in what we had been talking about all season," said Coach Pena. They've faced some challenges over the season, like injuries, illness, time off of running, and when the heat was really bad after school, so they had to come in for early morning practice. They took these obstacles as motivation for their Conference Meet, and ended up placing 3rd as team, with a few of the boys as Conference Champs!

In the end, the boys took 7th in Regionals, and leaders Gabe Mahn and Elliot Batz qualified for State at the Sectional Meet, concluding their phenomenal season.

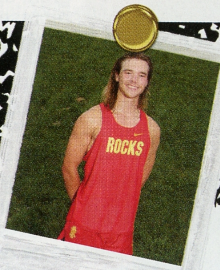
Rocks @ STATE

Elliot Batz finished in 76th place with a time of 15:03.20, a personal best PR, and his first year at State.

Gabe Mahn finished in 114th, with at time of 15:18.10, a seasonal best PR, and his 3rd year going to State for the Rock Island XC Team.

Dear Boys XC,

"I initially joined the team because I had friends on it, so I thought I would give it a shot. I enjoy Cross Country because of my teammates, and the ability to push myself. My goal for next season is to do some heavy training over the summer and higher mileage."



Sincerely,
Henry Mass

TRACKING OUR FAVORITE *memories*

"My favorite memory was celebrating the 4x4 team after they qualified for State."
- Lukas Heine

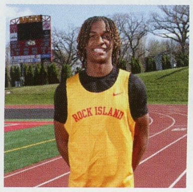
"My favorite memory from last season was going to Eastern Illinois for the Boys State Meet. It was rainy, with a weather delay, but we had lots of fun on the indoor track!"
- George Tate

"My favorite memory was placing 3rd at Conference after being out for so long due to injury, and it made me become a 3x Conference placer!"
- DeShawn Rucker

"My favorite memory from track is getting to travel far with the team, and getting to experience the unique night time track meet atmosphere."
- Dylan Hartzler

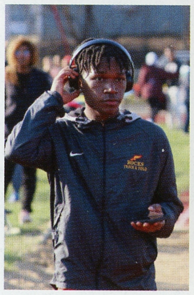
THE BIGGER *picture*

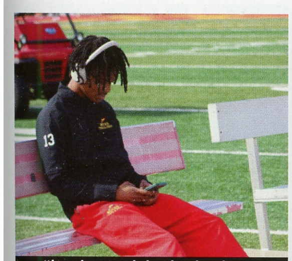
"It's more than a sport to me. It gives me such a thrill that cannot be explained."
- Dai'Shaun McCaw


"Being a track player means to practice, dedication, and determination. Driven to meet your goals."
- Jaylin Craig

"I would say that doing track gives me a bigger sense of pride for our school and is a great opportunity to represent Rocky."
- Liam Muir

"To me, being a track player in Rock Island means to be representing something bigger than yourself."
- Santana Smith





"I take pride in being recognized as a leader on a team that's done so much for me."
- Dai'Shaun McCaw

"Being one of the top runners in the area, and people knowing has pleased me."
- Gabriel Mahn

"I feel very honored to be seen as a team leader."

- Quincy Black

Dear Track and Field,

"Being a part of the Track Team, to me, meant being a part of another family. Being around the Track Team felt like the brothers I never actually had. If it was not for track, I wouldn't be where, or who, I am today."

Sincerely,
V'Jay Garrard

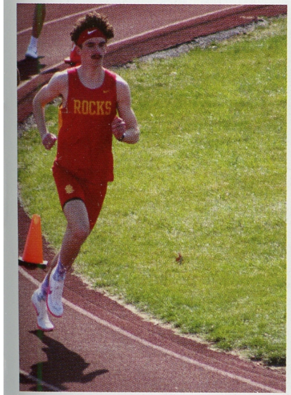
FROM START *to finish*

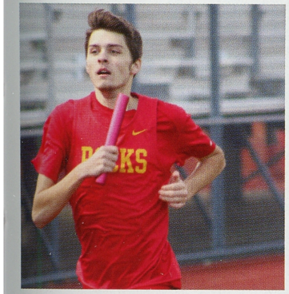
This previous season for the Rock Island Boys Track Team was a season for rebuilding. The Rocks finished 3rd in Conference and had 8 State Qualifiers, which was a huge improvement from last season, where they took 5th in Conference. There were many standout runners who impacted the season, like Gabriel Mahn, Elliot Batz, Quincy Black, and Dai'Shaun McCaw.

Head Coach Jarrin Williams was very proud of his team this year, and their achievements through adversity. They accomplished finishing 3rd in Conference, and having 8 State qualifiers- Garr Tarr competing in the 100 Meter Dash, Quincy Black, Garr Tarr, Omar Sosa, and Jaylin Craig qualifying for the 4 x 200 Meter Relay (featuring alternates George Tate and V'Jay Garrard), Dai'Shaun McCaw representing Rocky in the 300 Meter Hurdles, and lastly, Dai'Shaun McCaw, Josiah Putnam, Asa Mahn, and Canyon Thompson running in the 4 x 400 Meter Relay.

While Coach Williams has many fond memories of the season, his favorite one was "the Sectional Meet, and watching all the guys compete." The athletes have many good memories of the season, too. V'Jay Garrard said, "There's so many memories, I'm not sure I could choose just one."

Overall, last year's track season was a season for growth and improvement, while making memories and having fun with one another. It is about, "developing together as one family," Williams explained.





FROM start TO finish

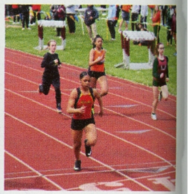
Each and every group at Rocky has their own unique stories to be told, and lessons to be learned. The Girls Track Team stands as a testament to the power of a winning mindset culture. Throughout the season, these dedicated athletes have demonstrated that success is not only measured by times and trophies, but by the resilience, teamwork, and determination that fuel their journeys.

"All sports programs need to know that they have the skills and the right individuals to compete and be successful. Our Girls Track and Field Program will do their part to increase school spirit and a competitive mindset to be successful during this upcoming track season," Coach Williams explained, as to why a team like this one plays a crucial role in school spirit and representation at a school like Rocky. Furthermore, senior long distance and relay runner, Kylie Melchi added in, "It's important to have this kind of environment because everyone needs motivation from somewhere, and having the opportunity to have coaches and other teammates supporting you helps you succeed, not only on the track, but also academics."

Being part of such a group takes specific characteristics within oneself. There are expectations that are set by coaches that the athletes themselves must find the fuel to meet those expectations. "Being part of the track program takes a lot of dedication and passion. A common theme that applies to everyone, no matter the event, is believing in yourself and what you're doing. The coaches expect us to always believe in ourselves and give 100% effort all the time," Melchi explained. Coach Williams echoed this, stating, "I would love for our girls to believe in themselves to excel and believe in their capabilities. We expect our girls to operate with a championship mentality with the expectation to be Conference Champions."

All in all, the competitive and supportive atmosphere that has been created within the Girls Track Team, has proven time and time again just how far the little things like team spirit can take a team. It takes a special team, like this one, to have great history and continue to have great moments.

MOLINE
MOLINE



"My favorite memory is competing in the 4x800 for Sectionals."
- Ulana Richey, 11

"Winning a jump-off against UT at a meet."
- Amine Gay, 11

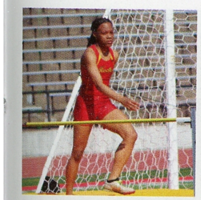
"My favorite memory is team dinners, while sitting with my throwers!"
- Averi Vroman, 11

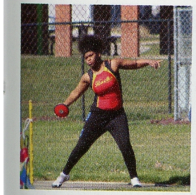
"I would say my favorite memory from track would be cracking jokes with my teammates. No matter if we were having a good or bad practice, we made sure to make the most of it, and laugh it off."
- Kamya McDuffy, 12

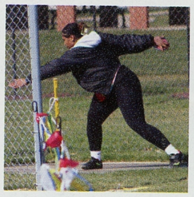
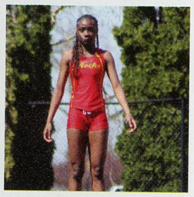
"My favorite memory from track was probably getting a PR on my 400's! It's always a good feeling to see your growth and achievements."
- Madeline Olson, 11

MEMORIES

on the
track





ROCKS @ state

"It was a great opportunity to represent Rocky at State, and I am so glad to have had that experience for my first time. It was a little nerve-racking, but I pulled through and brought back a medal for my school!"
- Ameena Ross, 11

OUR *final* RUN

Riley LeVan

"I actually joined track my senior year, and it made it so much better. I did pole vault and, sometimes, sprints, and it kept me active, and pushed me every day. I also became friends and got close with so many amazing people that I still talk to today."

Lah Set Moo

"My last year of track was really fun, even if it didn't go as planned. My teammates made the season entertaining and worth staying for. It was also cool to see the team achieve things that we weren't able to in the previous years."

Cheyeane Stanley

"Coming into my 4th and final year of Rocky Track, I knew I had to make the most of every practice, lift, team bonding, and meet. I did everything 100%, and treated it like my last, because it was."

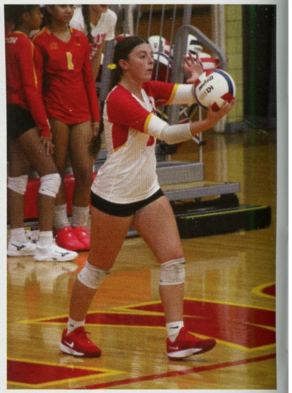
Dear Track Team,

"You have made me who I am today, strong, confident, and having a sense of assurance on this team. This team greeted me with open arms, no matter what, and allowed me to pursue what I know I can achieve".

Sincerely,

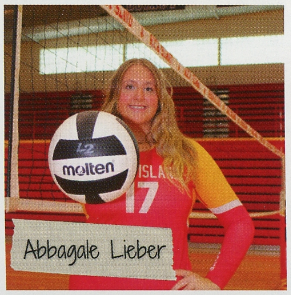
Keziah Anderson

"A good captain leads by example. She is the first and last one in the gym every day. A good captain is exemplary, on and off the court."
- Elizabeth McCoy, 12



Elizabeth McCoy

Isabella Adner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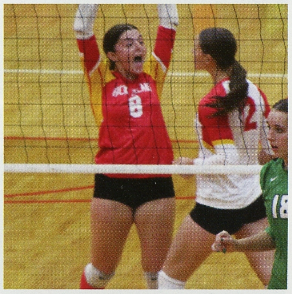
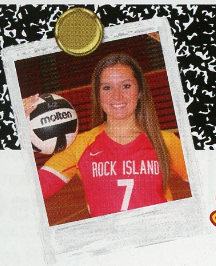
Senior Season



Madison Carroll

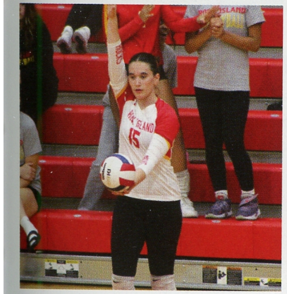
A'rion Lonergan-Shinskia

Dear Volleyball,



Sincerely,
Isabella Adner

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to play with the best teammates throughout the years. I have learned so much, on and off the court, with helpful coaches behind it all. Volleyball has shaped me as a person, and I will forever be thankful for that. The memories that I have created, and the bonds that I have made, will last me a lifetime."



Blocking the Stigma

Mental toughness is often something that players are taught to acquire while participating in sports. It was repeated throughout the Rocks' season how impactful volleyball can be on one's mind.

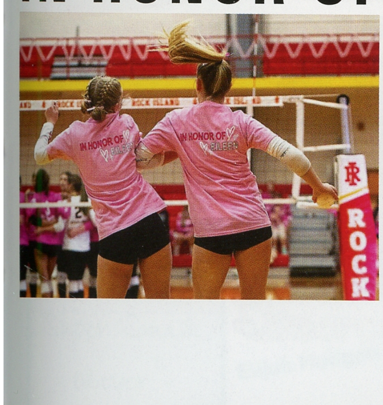
This season, Coach Alaxandria Battin presented the Varsity Rocks with positive mental health exercises, on and off the court. Battin's focus was building not only a winning team, but a winning mentality.

One of the exercises consisted of the athletes huddling up before every game, while holding hands, and saying words of affirmation to each other that positively motivated them. "(Affirmations) helped me calm my nerves, having more faith and confidence in myself," Julianna King (10) said.

Another exercise the Rocks practiced was writing each other anonymous notes before hard matches, and reassuring each other that their teammates were there for them. "The notes we did were always fun to see who you got, and who got you, but it was even more memorable to see all the times people put in so much effort just to admire their teammate. I feel like it created such a family-like culture for the team," Bella Wilson (11) said.

The athletes learned the importance of balancing physical health with mental health. The Rocks learned about relying on each other, and building a family inside of their team. "Leaning on each other, as a team, makes the game a lot easier," Maddie Carroll (12) said.

IN HONOR OF

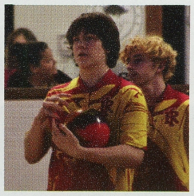


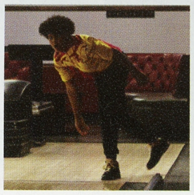
Dear Boys Bowling,

"You have shown me how to be tough. You have taught me how to stay calm, and reminded me to alway be a friend."

Sincerely,

Payton Hecker





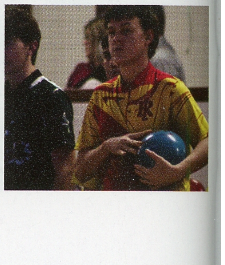
The Rock Island Boys Bowling Team had a striking season. The Bowling Team was short of going to State, but had a remarkable season, overall. The team went all the way to Sectionals.

Over the season, the boys had lots of good times. The most exciting win was when the boys placed third at Regionals in DeKalb.

Along with that, the team had many other individual successes. Some of these included Peyton Hecker taking 1st place, Zayden Morris taking 12th place, and Brenden Strader taking 15th, all at the same tournament in Morton.

The team had no seniors this year, but all of the boys took a strong lead. The team is looking to grow stronger for next year, as the work to be successful is never ending.

rolling into SECTIONALS



KAZUYA
VS.
CLOUD

SECTIONAL champions

Rocky's eSports Team has quickly become a tight-knit community, where students come together to compete in games like League of Legends and Rocket League. Under the leadership of Coach Laurie Vroman, the program has grown into more than just a competitive team, it's also family.

"My favorite memory is watching my players practice and build lasting relationships," Vroman shared. "eSports is like a family, and I love seeing students compete and have fun."

The team has already made a name for themselves, going undefeated at Sectionals in Super Smash Brothers Ultimate, and securing a spot at the State Championship in the spring of 2023.

With a strong foundation of teamwork and dedication, Rock Island's eSports program continues to grow and thrive.

NORMAL WEST
WILDCATS

Dear eSports Team,

"I really enjoys eSports. It has allowed me to become a better Super Smash player."

Sincerely,

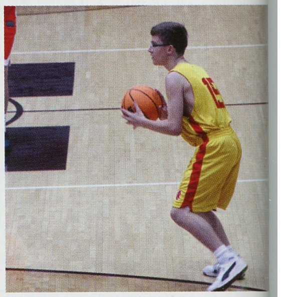
Elijah Hodgett

"My favorite memory was defeating one of the best Smash players in eSports. The best part of the season was the tournaments, mainly Nintendo's Super Smash Bros Ultimate."

-Andrew Niemi

"My favorite part was the tournament, just because everyone is very good, and I like learning from them, and everyone is very kind. My favorite memory has to be nearly winning said tournament."

-Noah Witmer



TROPHY season

Mrs. Lisa Martens has coached the Special Olympics Basketball Team for 8 of her 28 years of teaching at Rock Island High School. But this year's team was extra special.

Martens said that this team "improved so much this year. They understood the plays that were called, their defense has gotten so much better, and they're always working on those three pointers." These factors, along with unwavering support from the community, fueled this 2025 team all the way to a Sectional Championship victory. "When we have games, we have the most supporters in the stands!" said Martens. "I get emails all the time asking me when our next games will be!"

Of course, there were hours of training leading up to the team's success. Martin credited their improvement to great sportsmanship, dedication, and the support of her husband, Jeff.

Not only was the Basketball Team successful this year, but Rocky also had a State Qualifier in the State Tournament for Special Olympics Bowling. Drew DeMarlie represented the Rocks with pride, and is a two time State Qualifier this year.

The team celebrated their Sectional Championship.

Dear Special Olympics,

"My favorite parts were going to the games, and qualifying for State."

Sincerely,

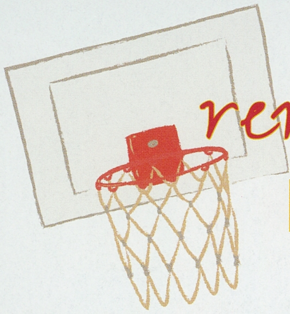
Griff Garro

state qualifier x 2

"My favorite part of the team is passing the ball to my teammates, and letting my teammates score. Making jump shots and making three pointers, and helping out my teammates and my coaches."

- Drew DeMarlie

(a State Qualifier in both basketball and bowling this year)



reminiscing ROCKS

"My favorite memory is beating Moline at home."
- Benjamin Goeh, 12

"My favorite memory is going to the State Farm Tournament."
- Jae'Vion Clark-Pugh, 12

"My favorite memory is beating Moline at home."
- Namarion Coleman, 12

"My favorite memory is playing with my brothers."
- Myles Davis, 12

"My favorite memory is hanging with teammates."
- Isaiss Duarte, 12

"My favorite memory is bus rides back."
- Antonio Rayford, 12

a STANDOUT season

This year, the Rocks' Boys Basketball Team had a remarkable and memorable season. One of the many accomplishments achieved was their impressive undefeated at home record. Varsity Head Coach Marc Polite shared his appreciation of this achievement, stating, "Every year, it's a goal of ours to make the Fiel House one of the toughest places to play in Illinois. We did a good job of it this year. Not only did we win, but w made it a really intimidating place for teams to come in and play."

On top of their successful regular season, the team took home the IHSA Regional Championship Title after beating Moline in a heated rivalry game. "Being able to beat Moline on their home court was just a testament to our guys' hard work and the type of program that we have," shared Polite. The Rocks took down the Maroons, 63-60.

Several athletes stepped up and received plenty of prestige and recognition, too. Junior Lawson Zulu led the team in points, and was selected First Team on the Western Big 6 All Conference Team. Also receiving All Conference acknowledgments were Seniors Ben Goeh and Jae'Vion Clark-Pugh, as well as Sophomore Deven Marshall.

As for the seasons ahead, Polite shared, "The biggest thing for us is continuing to develop our players skill wise. Basketball is a skill game." The Rocks finished this year with an impressive 28 win season, with a 12-2 Conference record, paving the way for an exciting future of Rock Island Boys Basketball.

**Photos thanks to Play in the Sunshine Photos

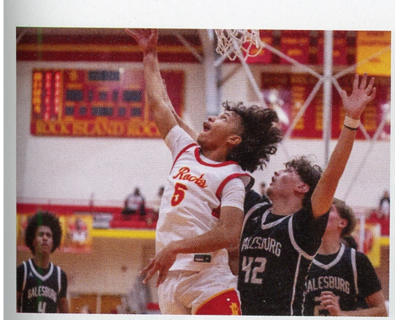
Dear Boys Basketball,

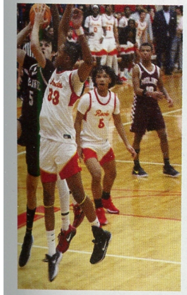
"Being a Rock Island basketball player is awesome. It's like another family to me."

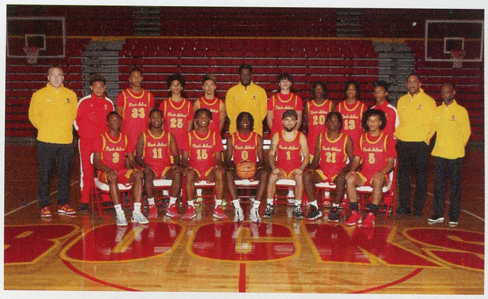
Sincerely, Jae'Vion Clark-Pugh

polite takes

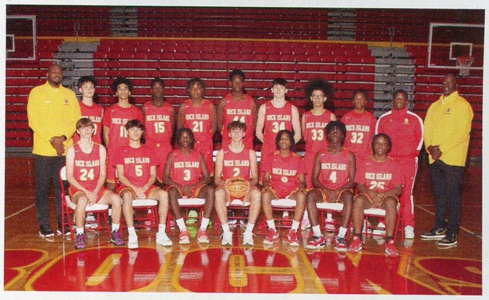
"I think we always, every year, want to compete for our Conference Championship, and then advance in the State Tournament, and then, we have some other short term goals, as far as being undefeated at home. That's always a goal that we have every single year, so those are the main ones that we had."
- Coach Polite



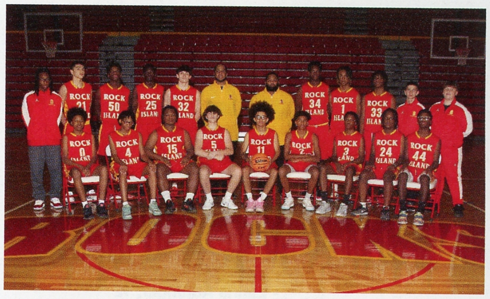




VARSITY team



JUNIOR VARSITY team

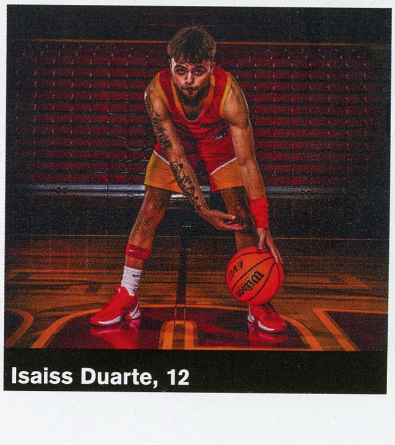


FRESHMAN team

CAPTIVATING CAPTAINS

Ben Goeh, 12

"I feel honored because it's a big deal to be a Captain of the Varsity Basketball Team, especially for Rock Island. It shows that I've earned the trust from the coaches."
- Ben Goeh



Isaiss Duarte, 12

"It's an honor that my coaches see me as a leader on the team, and it feels good getting it for both (Football and Basketball)."
- Isaiss Duarte

Seniors'

TIME TO SHINE

"For me, being a senior this year almost feels unreal because four years ago, it felt so far away. Now, being a senior, that freshman season feels like forever ago. Being able to play on Varsity for all four years is an experience I will always remember and be grateful for."

- Leah Kitterman, 12

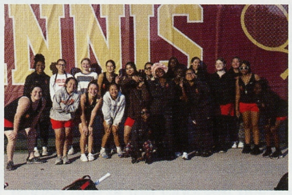
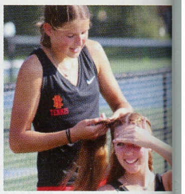
"Being a senior and in my last season means a lot to me because I feel like it is that one milestone everyone has in common and strives to get to. In the end, it is sweet due to the memories and lessons you've gone through."

- Layla Rice, 12

"Being a senior on the team this year is bittersweet because I will be leaving this team I have known for so long. I have created so many memories I will cherish forever. It is an experience I would never trade for the world!"

- Elaina Adlfinger, 12

KITTERMAN
25
ADLFINGER
25
RICE
25

GIRLS TENNIS
Season
2024

Dear Girls Tennis,

"Thank you for all the years of memories and the comfort you have given me. Thank you for the wonderful team you've given me each year. I will never, ever forget about you."

KITTERMAN
25

Sincerely,
Leah Kitterman

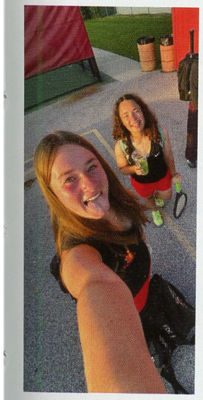
betty & voss
ARE THE BOSS

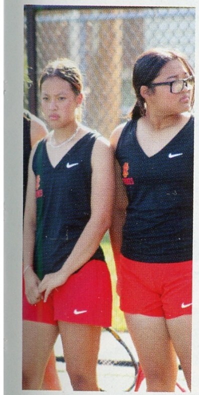
"Coaching tennis for the first time has surpassed my expectations. Getting to know the girls and their families has been so much fun. I am excited to continue the program in the years to come!"

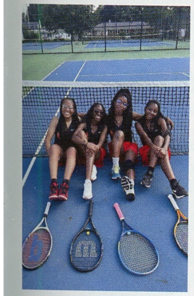
- Coach Voss

"Coaching tennis for the first time is more fun than I could have imagined. I've learned so much about the sport and wish more people would appreciate it. I'll cherish the girls and this first season forever."

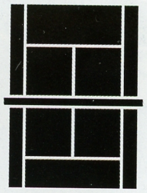
- Coach Betty







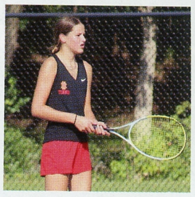
covering the COURT



Even though the girls were under a new coaching staff, it did not affect them at all, and they had a great season. As many of the girls said throughout the fall, everyone felt much closer to each other, and so much more like a team this year. Voss said that her proudest moment was "establishing a whole team culture, where everyone gets along, and supports each other, no matter their ability."

The team finished their season with an overall record of 4-5. Even though the girls had some tough matches, they persevered and still pulled through to the end with a positive attitude. They all kept their confidence up, and continued to be a support system for each other all year.

Coach Voss and Coach Betty both explained at the end of the season that even though it was their first time coaching tennis, they both thought it was more fun than they imagined. They both plan to continue coaching for years to come, and hope to keep building bonds with all the girls. They also look to continue to keep creating a strong bond within the team.



"I have loved playing tennis this year because the team is so nice, and everyone is fun to hang out with. I have learned so much, and I can't wait to play next year."
Lulu O'Melia, 9

"I came into the team with experience, and the entire team was so welcoming and kind. I am very happy I joined, as I've made new friends and learned new skills."
Sophia Moran, 9

"Joining the Tennis Team was one of the best choices I have made. Tennis is a fun sport, and the whole team has been very kind and welcoming."
Sandy Rose Htay, 10

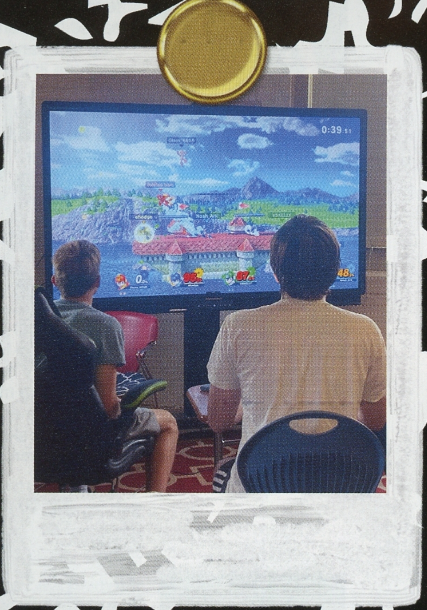
"Playing tennis for the first time is definitely a fun and challenging experience. I met new people and created bonds, along with learning a new sport!"
Charisma Pulliam, 11

"One of my favorite memories of the season is probably the bus rides. We really get to know each other during them, and we end up laughing a lot. It really feels like we are all family when this happens."
Honey Moo, 10

favorite MEMORY

"Being the 5 Varsity spot on the team this year, with this being my third year playing, has been both stressful and rewarding. I have improved as a singles player, and gained valuable experiences. The support from my teammates and coaches has made a huge difference, helping me this season. I'm excited to continue playing on the team."
- Abia Ndayishimiye, 11

"Being the 6 Varsity spot on the Tennis Team this year, as a second-year player has been an incredible experience. I've faced numerous challenges, from balancing school work to maintaining performance on the court, but it has all been worth it. The friendships I've built made this journey even more special. Overall, this season has taught me a lot, and I'm excited to continue to grow!"
- Blessing Jabbah, 11



"My favorite part of Reading Rocks is listening to other people's ideas and opinions over different books and topics."
- Lauren Gottcent, 12

"Culture Club has allowed me to learn and educate myself of not only my own culture, but also other cultures. I have gained friends, opportunities, and have gotten to experience other people's cultures."
- Eh Soe, 11

"Being involved at Rocky has caused me to feel like I had a reason for going to school every day, besides getting my diploma, obviously. Being in 5 clubs, being the leader of Rotary, and taking lots of challenging courses has caused me to feel like the best version of myself."
- Alaina Bonja

EXTRA-CURRICULARS
@ the Rock

Extra-curriculars at Rocky, or after school clubs, have provided students with countless unique possibilities and organizations. Students are able to seek out a specific community, based on their personal passions and interests. Whether you're looking to perform, game, or cooperate with your peers to improve the school and plan events, Rocky has a home for you. Well rounded students grow up to make the world a better place, and at the Rock, every student is working to find their passion.

"I feel like joining French Club has had such a good impact on my high school experience. It helped me to get to know more people, make friends, and get out of my comfort zone. Something I feel I have gained from French Club is becoming closer with Madam B, and really, just an overall positive experience with joining an after school club. I would recommend French Club because Madam B makes all the events super fun with all the food she brings, and the effort she puts in. You also get to meet really good people, and get to make new friends and gain new experiences."

-Joslynn Henderson, 12

"Student Council is a good way to give back to others and help people in the community. Students join if they want to be involved with volunteering in and out of school with friends."
- Katherine Gummow, 11

"Culture Club, it teaches us as young adults with families from different backgrounds, to keep our culture alive, and to share with others about how important our culture is to us."
- Christer New, 11

Many Cultures
One Rock
202

ROTARY INTERACT CLUB

second period

third period

My Favorite part is:

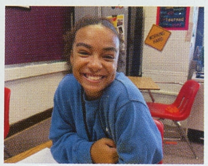
"I love being able to put special memories of Rocky in the yearbook that will always leave a legacy."
- Mylie Shook, 12

"Being able to be creative with pages I do or pictures I take. Having a voice in what being at Rocky is like makes it interesting!"
- Ruby Marceleno, 10

"Watching the yearbook come together in the end."
- Olivia Riecke, 11

"My favorite part of Journalism is the interviews. You get to ask students and teachers questions you wouldn't normally ask, and see their point of view on it."
- Ava Peppmeyer, 10

"My favorite part about Journalism is the creative freedom we're given. Everybody's projects and yearbook pages will look different, and that's what makes us unique as a group."
- Gracelynn Veys, 11


"Feeling fulfilled when receiving the book and being able to say, 'I made this' or 'I helped design this'. It makes me feel like I left my touch on Rock Island, and makes me feel important to the school."
-A'rion Lonergan, 12

your stories, SINCERELY, US

Not only does the Journalism class at Rocky shape the yearbook, it also helps to shape the students' lives. Mrs. Sarah Vens has been the advisor for 16 years now, and one of the Head Editors, Ellie McCoy, has been in the class for 3.

McCoy is a senior at Rocky, who wants to leave her mark, and said, "Since this is my last year, I've been thinking a lot about the legacy I want to leave at Rocky. I feel one of the best ways to leave a legacy is through the yearbook. I want to instill the same passion I have for the yearbook in all the underclassmen in Journalism, and show them just how special it is to be part of creating Rocky's history." The yearbook theme of "Dear Rocky. Sincerely, us" was brought to life through her, and her group.

Vens is very supportive and encouraging towards student leadership. She said, "I think my favorite memory is just seeing the kids take on leadership roles, and be creative as they tell the stories of the school each year." Rocky's yearbook is very inclusive towards student ideas and production. Vens' goal is to allow the students to make it their own.

McCoy is very appreciative of this opportunity to create the book how she wants. She said, "My favorite memory, by far, was seeing my work printed for the first time. To see your page on your tiny chromebook screen for months is one thing, but to be able to hand it proudly to your loved ones and say, 'I made this,' is something else entirely."

However, having too much freedom can cause students to get off track. Vens noted, "Challenges this year seem to be getting students to pay attention to deadlines. I think paying attention to deadlines and details, as well as teamwork, are the most important aspects of the class." Stressing this idea has impacted McCoy and her leadership goals. However, the class worked together to better organize and plan their weeks to make sure the deadlines are met.

McCoy said her main goals this year are, "To create a unique and inclusive yearbook, and then turn it all in on time." Not completing weekly to-do lists leads to not hitting deadlines, and not hitting deadlines leads to not turning the book in on time, and last, but not least, when the book isn't turned in on time, they arrive late, causing issues for students to receive them.

Working on the yearbook is a unique opportunity to tell the school's history, and also get real world experience with deadlines, creativity, and reaching out to sources within the community. This year's group of Rocky Journalists has hit every deadline, and worked together to create a unique yearbook, build new processes for the class, and create fun class traditions. Mrs. Vens explained, "I'm very proud of this year's group. Their leadership, willingness to adapt, and positivity has been fun to watch. They are a great group to work with."

EDITORS

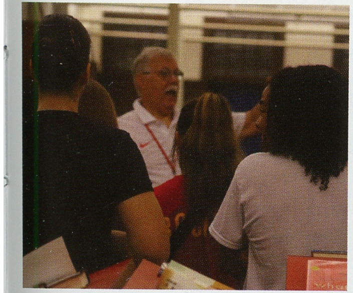
RIHS
Journalism
second period

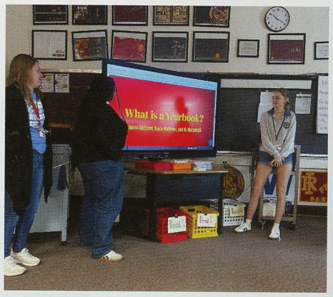
RIHS
Journalism
third period

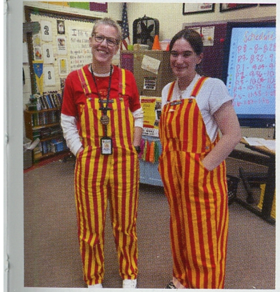
Head Editors:

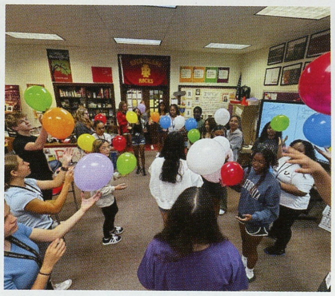
Eh Eh Poe - Senior
Katie Voss- Junior
Ellie McCoy- Senior
Yaretzi Jimenez-Junior
Chloe Harmon- Senior

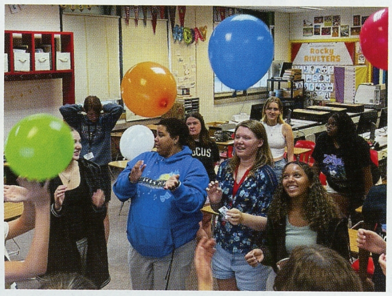
RIHS
Journalism




What is a Yearbook?







Dear Journalism,

"I've gotten to meet so many new people through journalism, and learn things about other people or the school that I didn't know about before. I feel like if it weren't for the class, I wouldn't be able to step out of my comfort zone and gain new experiences. Being part of journalism has made my time at Rocky so much more enjoyable and worthwhile."

Sincerely,

Yaretzi Jimenez

NATIONAL HONOR society

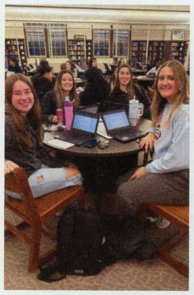
Connie Hayek

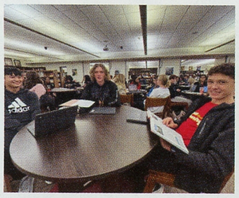
"I look forward each year to meeting new students who have worked hard both in school and in the community. The NHS Induction Ceremony seems to kick off the last quarter and recognition for graduating seniors, making this a poignant event, as we will miss the seniors we've been fortunate to work with during their time at Rocky."

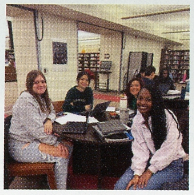
Michelle Greenwood

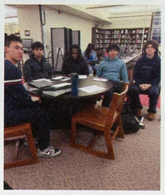
“My favorite part of being involved with NHS is seeing students actively engaging in community service projects, which allows them to make a positive impact on their community, while developing leadership skills and demonstrating their commitment to give back to others.”

NHS encourages students to embody and uphold, through their experiences and comportment, the values of scholarship, leadership, character, and service in high school and their community. “Students volunteer at a number of places or events in the QCA and district, including the Festival of Trees, Eagle Days, local churches, shelters, Closet2Closet and more,” explained Mrs. Hayek. As RIHS students and members of the QCA community, NHS members are expected to uphold the four NHS pillars of character, leadership, service and scholarship. “We hope students become well rounded citizens, caring about their community and others, as much as they do their academic work,” stated Mrs. Hayek.









Sophomore Members

Junior Members

Senior Members

Dear NHS,

"I'm thankful for the opportunities that National Honor Society has to offer. It feels meaningful to be a part of an organization that thrives on community service."

Sincerely,

Jenna Kitterman

NHS OFFICERS

President

Mia Hixson

Vice President

Kamya McDuffy

Secretary

Kylie Melchi

GERMAN club

At Rock Island High School, there are three language classes to choose from, including Spanish, French, and German. These three language classes are able to teach students how to speak the language, as well as learn the culture of countries where that language is spoken. Mr. Nick Eli teaches German at Rock Island High School. The German classes teach students the basic words, vocabulary, and sounds of the language. The German classes also teach students the background of German culture. The German classes have 4 different levels, as well as an independent study for students to take. Emily O'Brien, a senior in the German class, stated, "We do a lot of speaking and worksheets. Mr. Eli makes charts, notes vocabulary, and helps us with pronunciation."

Not only does Eli teach the basics, but he also offers the German Club as a space for students to explore and learn more about the German culture outside of class time. Mr. Eli said, "I get to know my students better, and in a different setting."

When Mr. Eli meets his students after school for the German Club, he said, "Most German Club meetings look like planning an activity or event, or we play games, do puzzles, Kahoots, have celebrations, and speak German together."

The German Club is a space for students of different German levels (classes) to meet each other. Mr. Eli said, "What I enjoy most about the German Club is seeing the students from different levels of German get to know each other better, and share what they know."

The club offers extra activities for German students to be involved in. Mr. Eli stated, "One of my favorite events we host is the beginning and end-of-year picnics, and then, our holiday gift exchange that we have every December." German Club hosts a holiday party every year for students of different German levels to exchange gifts and enjoy good food.

O'Brien said, "I enjoy German so much because of Mr. Eli. He always gives me help if I need it, and he is amazing to be around." Most German students enjoy the class and the club because of Mr. Eli's dedication. He has continued leading the German Club because, "I enjoy teaching about German culture, and also wanted a way for my students to connect after school," he explained.

Thanks to Mr. Eli, his students have a place to practice their language skills, and really get involved with the German language and culture, not only in class, but outside of class, too.

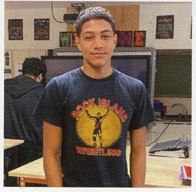
German Club

GERMAN CLUB
2023-24 T-shirts $5

CREATIVE designers

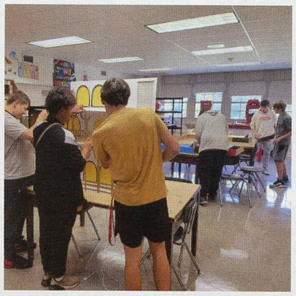
"My favorite thing that I have done in Engineering would be the Rube Goldberg Machine because of fixing different variables when things fail, and finally getting the machine to work!"
- Jenna Kitterman

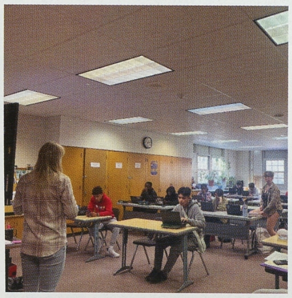
"One of my favorite things I have done is the Homecoming project. I got to use many varieties of crafts, and overall, had a great time creating it."
- Karley Loveless

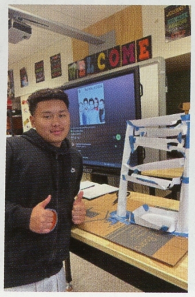


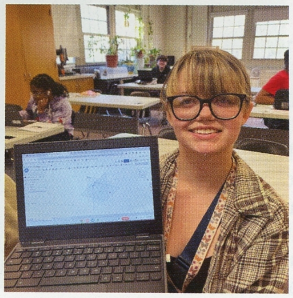
"My favorite thing in Engineering is working with others to accomplish something we all worked hard on to complete."
- Antonio Parker

"My favorite project in Engineering Class was the Rube Goldburg Machine Project. It was fun, challenging, and interesting to build."
- Ruby Plasencia









BUILDING a better future

The Engineering Program at Rock Island High School has been an amazing tool for students to get real world experience and get hands-on involvement with various engineering ideas and tools. This class provides students with an opportunity to get a taste of what engineering is all about, and helps them to know what they want to do in their future.

One of the common goals both advisors share is wanting to introduce students to what engineering is like. "My goal is to introduce students to Engineering. Oftentimes, if you don't know someone who is a professional engineer, you don't even know it's a career option. By having an Engineering Program at Rocky, we are introducing more students to the Engineering field," said Mrs. Dennis.

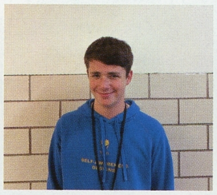
The Engineering classes do a lot of fun activities and use many cool programs to learn, such as going on field trips, creative projects, and using OnShape to model objects. Dennis shared some of the activities her class does, stating, "In Intro to Engineering, we learn how to model objects in a computer program called OnShape. This allows us to 3D print them. We also do several challenges where students have to brainstorm and come up with good ideas. We do a couple builds, where students have to come up with an idea, design it, then actually build it." In the other Engineering classes, Mr. Kitterman talked about the activities they do, including, "CAD modeling, creating one of a kind buildings, making Automata boxes, building parks, using drones, and designing and building your dream house," said Kitterman.

One of the students in Engineering, Mu Phlay K'Tooe Soe, expressed what they do as a class, and how Engineering can make a difference in the world, stating, "We mainly do group projects and build buildings and structures designed to fit the need of a certain situation or desired request for the community. These projects are really good because in Engineering, it's not a one person thing, but multiple, because people need to work with each other in order to solve life problems in order to design and create things in a timely and precise manner. Like the motto says, 'Teamwork makes the dream work.'"

Engineering provides many students with different opportunities to help show them different career choices and give them exposure to the program before they have to make any difficult college choices.

"I took Engineering because I plan on being a Civil Engineer in the future. My favorite part of the class is the CAD program, and the teacher, Mrs. Dennis. She really makes the class worth taking."
- Katherine Gummow

"I chose to do Engineering because I've taken multiple classes at Edison for the Engineering Program, and I've enjoyed them all. My favorite part of the class is building things for our projects."
- Nolan Jared



"I chose Engineering because I love the Engineering asset. My favorite part is when we do our projects."
- Judah Kargl

"I like Engineering because we learn a lot of new things that I would never know, and it's a lot of hands on learning. And, we do this app named OnShape, and you learn a lot of new things."
- Khloe Littlejohn

Dear Engineering,

"Being a student in Engineering all 4 years of my high school career was the best decision I ever made. Engineering class has always been the only class I have looked forward to, and now, becoming an engineer has become my passion, and I believe everyone should try it because it brings out the creativity and hands-on skills everyone has. Most high school students just go through the motions, but I believe that if everyone tries their best, it could be extremely impactful on them, as well."

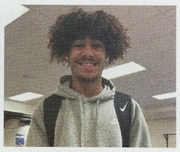
Sincerely,

Gunnar Carroll

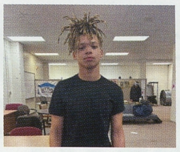
"iJAG is a good class. You get to experience new things every day."
- Romahn Armstrong, 10

"It's always a fun class, that's very positive, and the teachers are amazing."
- Hailey Gisi, 10

"This class is very fun. I love going on the field trips and listening to all the guest speakers."
- Amirya Morales, 10



"It's actually really fun. I feel comfortable in here, and I get to see my good friends. I really enjoy this class!"
- Kayden Vales, 10



"It feels good because iJAG shows and explains how to persevere in life."
- Damauri McCaw, 10

"iJAG is a fun learning experience, and shows you all of the different opportunities you can have outside of school."
Kaelah Young, 10

iJAG*inspires*

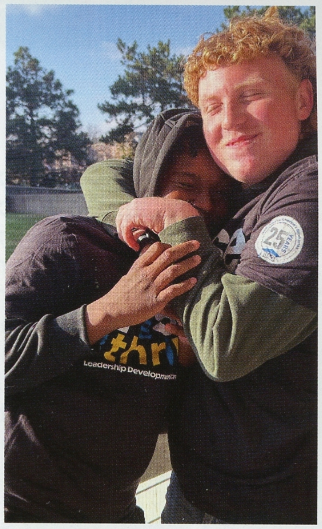
The iJAG Program at Rock Island High School has an impact on many students and their futures. Learning how to be a leader, getting volunteer hours in, and preparation for jobs are among the top skills taught in the program. Mickaela Jimenez stated, "We hope students will leave the iJAG Program with leadership skills and job skills that will help them have a successful future." Jimenez explained the purpose of the program, stating, "iJAG stands for Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates. It is a leadership program for hardworking students, interested in working on skills that will prepare them for the real world after high school. Students will get to explore all the different options they have after high school, such as continuing education, seeking employment, or joining the military. "Students have voice and choice in what we do and learn. This class is all about what's important and interesting to them. It is also a fun, supportive, and safe space, where students can be themselves," Jimenez explained.

Mr. Craig Sharp, the 11th and 12th grade iJAG teacher, explained what the iJAG Program does weekly. He stated, "We make a speech each Monday because communication skills are vital to future success. We have many guest speakers come in our class, so we can learn about the world and the workplace around us. We work on Project Based Learning. We have projects to complete, so we can learn the important lessons in life."

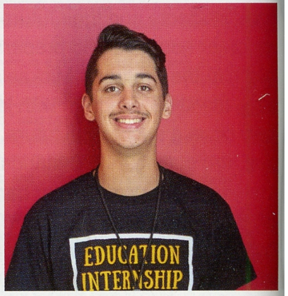
Dear iJAG,

"iJAG has significantly impacted my life for the better. As President, I have gone to workshops to improve my leadership skills, and have gotten the opportunity to put those skills into action. Being in iJAG has taught me the importance of finding a career. It has helped me explore other options. I've had the opportunity to meet and talk with a variety of people in different careers. iJAG has ultimately taught me the importance of networking and creating life-long connections."

Sincerely,
Beline Shukuru



education internship's GROWING PROGRAM

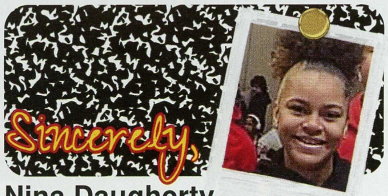


The Education Internship at Rocky, established just four years ago by Mike Mertel, has quickly gained significant traction and success. The program provides students with the unique opportunity to be placed in schools of their choice, teaching a grade level of their preference, and essentially "becoming a teacher" themselves. This hands-on experience is invaluable, allowing students to engage in real-world teaching before pursuing higher education. Key expectations within the classroom include "attendance, engagement, and conduct," as outlined by Mertel.

The program is particularly impactful because it offers high school students an inside look into the teaching profession. "Over 1,000 students across the district are benefiting from more individualized education thanks to our interns," Mertel proudly noted. While the internship is demanding, it offers numerous opportunities for growth, including hands-on learning experiences and a partnership with Spring Forward, which allows interns to be hired as after-school tutors throughout the district.

Additionally, the Education Internship fosters a sense of community and tradition. "Each year, we host an 'Education Conference,' where interns lead discussions and activities with underclassmen at Rocky," Mertel explained. This event helps interns develop leadership skills, while strengthening their role within the school. Ultimately, the Education Internship Program is not just an academic course; it is a vibrant community of aspiring educators, committed to making a lasting impact on their schools and the broader community.

Dear Education Internship,

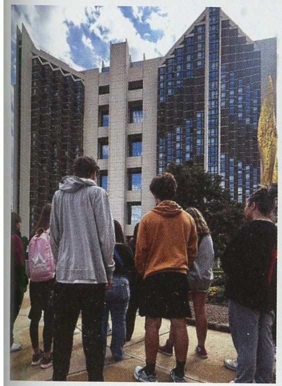


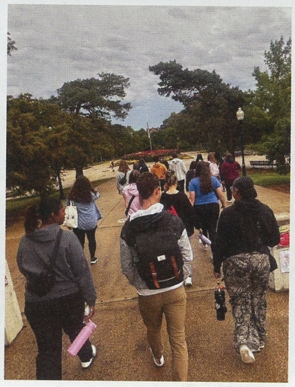
Nina Daugherty

"My two years in the program have been fun, exciting, and overall, an amazing experience. Being able to go out and make impacts in an actual classroom every day has solidified my career choice. I've never felt more prepared and excited to jump into college with this experience."

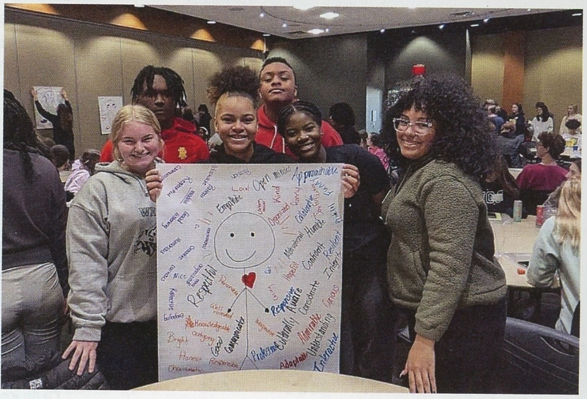
Rocky's Education Internship Program is growing and growing. This year, they have interns in every single building inside of the Rock Island School District. The interns take on various roles inside of a school, ranging from EL teachers, Band and Orchestra teachers, and everyday classroom teachers, as well.

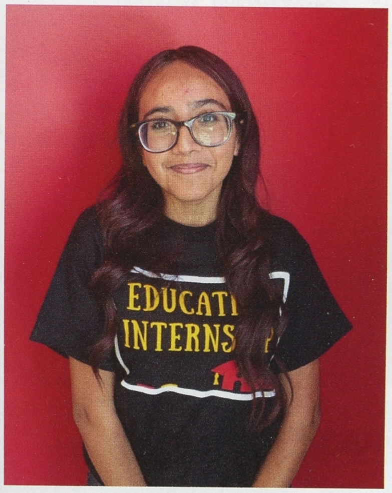
college trips & EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES





One of the important aspects of the Education Internship classroom is going out to colleges and exploring various education programs. Over the years, the class has traveled to a multitude of colleges. "I feel like this experience is so important to me as a high school student," Chloe Harmon mentioned. This year, some of the students took a trip to ISU (Illinois State University). They were able to explore the education building, campus, and talk with a panel of active students, which included 3 graduates from Rocky in it! "It was really inviting to see familiar faces, when getting to ask the important questions about college," LaNina Daugherty said. Along with that, they also were able to get a nice lunch in one of the campus dining halls. "Getting to eat with actual students made it feel like I was actually in college," Ariyah Spoljoric reflected. Aside from that, another important, yet fun activity the internship program does is go to an annual teaching academy at Augustana College. While there, the interns work as a group to find qualities of great teachers, collaborate while looking at student and teacher issues, while searching for an overall solution, get a quick campus tour, and finish the day eating lunch in the dining hall with other college students.



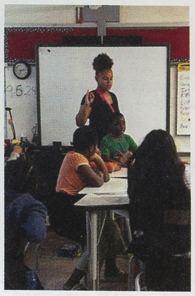


A stand out student in Rocky's Educational Internship class is Thalia Camacho. She works with an EL (English Learner) class at Denkmann Elementary. She leads morning announcements in English and Spanish!

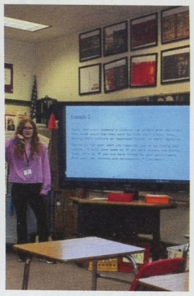
lesson LEADERS

"A lesson I've taught is grammar. It has helped me understand how all my students are at different levels, and see that some students may need more help."
- A'Keyla Brown

"I have kindergarten this year in my placement, so something I've taught them is how to write their letters."
- Ariyah Spoljoric



"I'm an active person in the classroom, and I pick up fast on many things. One lesson I teach often is vocabulary."
- LaNina Daugherty



"I'm teaching Freshman English this year. A lesson I have taught my students is how to correctly cite a quote when writing an essay."
- Gracelynn Veys

"I feel more accepted, and like to share my culture, and also spend time with my cousins."

Easter Naing, 11

"I am feeling great and have fun after learning a lot of culture in Culture Club."

Vaughn Willowbloom, 9

"I feel proud to show my culture and teach it to others, so that they can know and accept the culture that they can apply in their lives."

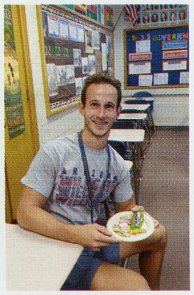
K'Moo Hser, 9

"The culture that I am most interested in is Asian culture because I know some from what I've learned from college courses, but it goes a long way, so I'd like to learn more about it."

- Maria Trigueros

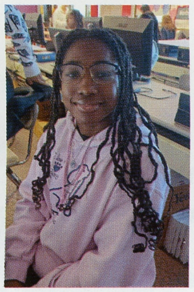
"Mrs. Mertel and I travel a lot to different parts of the world, and so leading up to those trips, I like to learn as much about the local culture as possible. I read books from local authors, find recipes to make dishes from their cuisine, learn as much language as possible, and watch shows or movies produced there."

- Mike Mertel



"I would like to learn everybody's culture. It's because you can know people on a deeper level, rather than just what's on the surface."

- Jordyn Randle



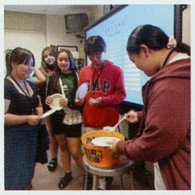
We are CULTURE CLUB

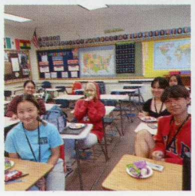
Rock Island High School is one of the most diverse schools in the state of Illinois, and has a lot of different cultures, languages, races, and ethnicities within. Culture Club is a group where students can freely share experiences they have with their culture, and learn about other cultures. Culture Club is a space of inclusion, where students can share their common love and curiosity for cultures. "It is often the highlight of my day when we have meetings because I get to learn aspects about students that I would never be able to in a classroom," said Mr. Mike Mertel.

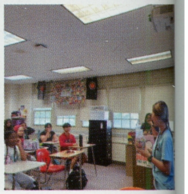
The Culture Club is a safe place to share the culture of Rocky, discuss the existence of diversity, and exchange stories about each other's culture. "The most memorable thing, for me, in Culture Club is when we get together, and just enjoy our time, such as our potlucks and going to other cultural events in the Quad Cities," said Beautiful Wah.

Culture Club is about learning to connect with other's culture, and to share students' own cultures with confidence, without feeling judged. "I feel proud to be a part of the Culture Club because I have really learned so much that I didn't think I would learn from day one. I have been able to express myself in so many ways," said Blessing Jabbah.

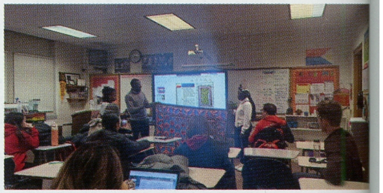
Culture Club's goals are to continue to be a place for anyone to share their cultures, learn, and educate others. They also hope for students to do their best in Culture Fest, and continue to grow the club.

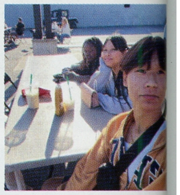






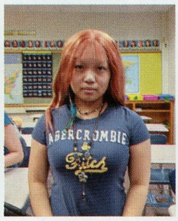
CULTURE CLUB in action





"For me, this is the first time I became the President of a club. I always make sure that everything goes according to schedule, and remind everyone what they should be doing and stay on track. My goal is to make the club grow positively and be recognized."

Christer New, 11, President



"Being a leader in Culture Club is to take on the responsibility of guiding other's feelings of their culture. We make an effort to make others feel comfortable in sharing their cultures, as there's a broad range of it. It's important to have Culture Club at Rocky to promote culture. Rocky, after all, is the #1 most diverse school in Illinois, and we really celebrate each other's cultures when the Culture Fest comes around."

Beautiful Wah, 11, VP

"I was interested in being a leader because I think culture is important, and getting people to join and learn about other's culture is enlightening. My role is to get people to actually come and learn about culture with us. It's difficult to convince people because they believe they don't have culture, but that's the important thing about Culture Club- to learn other's culture. My goal was to get more people to come to Culture Club."

Eh Dah Soe, 11, Marketing

"I was interested in being a leader for Culture Club because I really like the club and what it stands for. As a leader, I have to listen a lot, and be very attentive, and some days, I'm not good at that. My goal is to get things done, and make sure things are moving smoothly."

Susan Rodriguez, 10, Secretary

"As an exchange student, I love sharing stories about my culture, and the Culture Club is one of the safe places to share my stories."

Aqilah Saputri, 11

"It feels really good to share my culture because it's not very well-known, so in Culture Club, I can share my culture, and learn about the others, too."

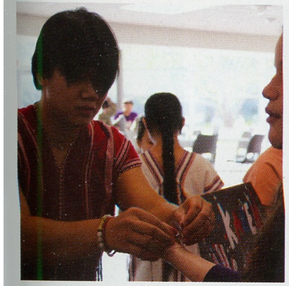
Christ Soe, 10

"I feel more knowledgeable on what's normal in other people's culture."

Gloria Wah, 9

CULTURE *fest*

Many Cultures, One Rocky



MANY CULTURES 1 ROCKY

Dear Culture Club,

"What started as a curiosity has grown into a meaningful part of my high school experience. Being surrounded by people who have genuine love and curiosity for all cultures has been a source of inspiration. Together, we have celebrated different cultures, and learned from each other. The Culture Fest we organize, and the memories we created will forever be with me. This club has helped me grow closer to people of my own culture and other cultures, and I will forever be grateful. I feel a deep sense of pride in what this club has become, and hope it will continue to grow."

Sincerely,

Eh Dah Soe

MANY CULTURES 1 ROCKY

THE BEAUTY IN DIFFERENCES

knowing and sharing the culture

The goal in the Culture Club is for people to feel comfortable to share their cultures without feeling judged. In every meeting, they make sure to create a safe place for talking about their experiences and different aspects of culture. Sometimes, they'll read an article, poem, or story, and discuss it. The Culture Club members also learn to recognize other people's cultures in a fun way, such as watching movies from other countries, listening to different types of music, and eating sweets from various countries. Culture Club also organizes Culture Fest by reaching out to students, as well as local businesses and organizations for people to show their culture with pride.

SENIOR spotlight

"I will miss the people; all the friends I made."

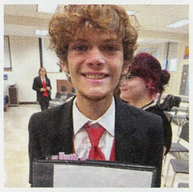
- Emily O'Brien

"I'll miss being around talented and devoted musicians."

- Stella Houk

"I will miss performing with the group around Christmas season. I loved the feeling of going around the Quad Cities with the group, and showing off our talents."

- Thom Elliott

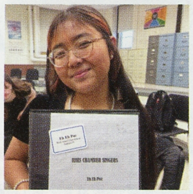


"I'll miss the friendships I've made with my fellow members and performing on our Christmas tours."

- Nyx King

"I'll miss singing with the Chamber Singers because of all the friendships I have made. I'll also miss performing at our events, such as Christmas season around the QC, and the Pops Concert."

- Eh Eh Poe

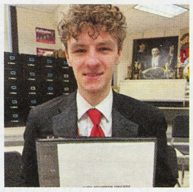


"I will miss the friendships I've made while being a part of the Chamber Singers, and also being able to perform around the QC during Christmas season."

- Noemi Figueroa-Salinas

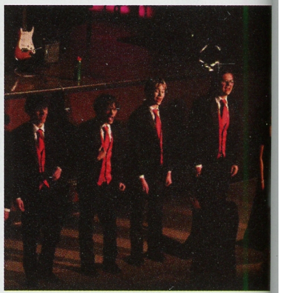
"I would have to say that my favorite part of being in Chamber is just performing. I adore it so much so, and getting to perform awesome music all the time. It really is something I think I could do forever."

- Daniel Hauskins

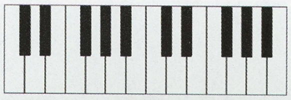


CHRISTMAS with CHAMBER

The Chamber Singers participated in a total of 25 performances on their annual Christmas Tour. Performance spots included schools, local churches, and a variety of places all over the beloved Quad Cities!



ACCOMPANYING SUCCESS



This year, the Chamber Singers were joined by Felicia Phillips, who took on the role of pianist, in the absence of Mrs. Bolt.

"I am loving my time as a pianist for the Rocky Choirs! Joining the Chamber Singers for the holiday performances was a blast! What I like most about being a pianist for the Rocky Choirs is making music with a lot of awesome people. It's been super fun getting know all the students. And of course, I love playing piano all the time."

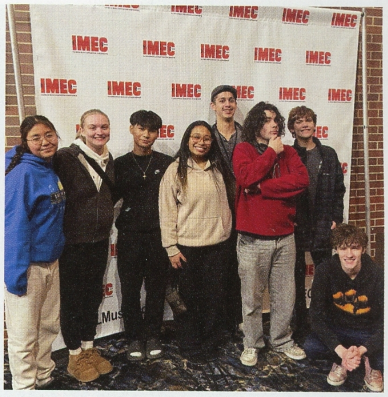
taking on ALL-STATE

Eight students from Rock Island High School were selected to participate at the All-State Festival hosted in Peoria.

All-State Chorus-
Elijah Clark,
Thom Elliott Jr.,
Christ Soe,
Tyler Whitten

All-State Honors Chorus-
Noemi Figueroa-Salinas,
Daniel Hauskins,
Eh Eh Poe

All-State Vocal Jazz-
Marley Smith



singing with THE CHAMBER SINGERS

The award winning Chamber Singers are a group of 17 talented members, taught by Director, Scott Voigt and Assistant Director, Cheryl Bolt.

"They are the highest-level performing ensemble at Rock Island High School. They are invited to perform at a wide range of events annually, in addition to the typical school concerts and contests," Mr. Voigt said, describing the Chamber Singers.

The Chamber Singers are busy year long. Starting off with a fall concert and morning sectionals during the first quarter of school, and then, during the second quarter, is the time when the group is most active. During second quarter, the Chamber Singers go around the QC to spread the happy feeling of festivities through their singing. Each year, there are about 20+ performances from the ensemble when they are on their "Holiday Tour." The third quarter is a time for contests, such as the Solo and Ensemble Contest and the IHSA Organizational Contest, and, of course, the concert for the quarter. Lastly, the fourth quarter consists of the most beloved concert by all the choir students, the Pops Concert.

The Chamber Singers are a special group of students who strive to share their talent and their love for music with others. No matter how many years have passed, and how many students have come and gone, the goal of the group remains the same- "For each student to grow musically and personally, as a result of our time together. To find our sound as a group, and have a great time sharing that sound with as many people as possible," expressed Mr. Voigt.

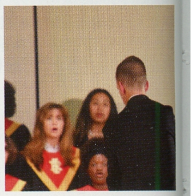
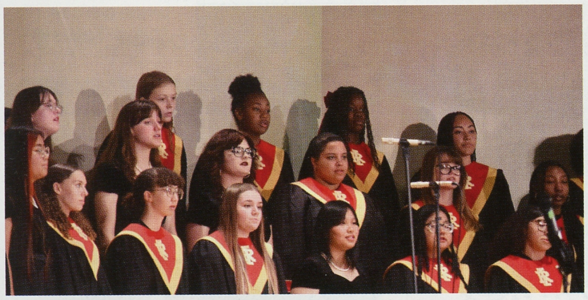
Dear Chamber Singers,

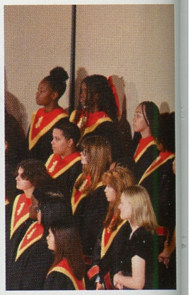
"It's been an honor to work with so many talented musicians for a second year now. I've enjoyed all the gigs and performances, and I am happy with all the amazing friends I have made along the way."

Sincerely,
Nathan Anderson

FRESHMAN in CHAMBER

"It feels really amazing to be in Chamber Singers. I have never done anything with choir until this year, but it has been such a fun ride to be with all these amazing singers, and to do new experiences with choir!"
- Chase Coussens



Dear Concert Choir,

"Being a part of choir makes anyone feel wanted and loved. It's full of positive energy. The students are the greatest, full of talented people. In choir, it's always just fun and giggles, but we still put in the work, with our teacher making us better as choir students, strengthening our vocals, and tugging at our heart strings to push us to our limit. Choir is to some, including me, home."

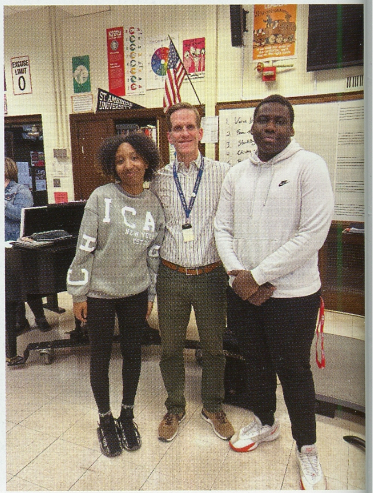
Sincerely,
Aniya House

SENIOR
spotlight

Mr. Voigt mentioned two seniors in Symphonic Choir, who have been exceptional students.

"Anocled has been really consistent. He's really grown into a leader over the last few years. He does ILMEA. He usually does a solo for contests, and is always willing to do whatever you need him to do. Travonna has always been very consistent. I think, even going back to COVID, she was always showing up for the live lessons with a little red hood every day, in the camera. She's a really solid person. She always works really hard and is very consistent.".

- Scott Voigt



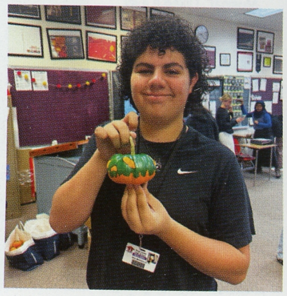
POST-CONCERT *traditions*

"After our concerts, I like having a group discussion about it, and then go to McDonald's or another fast food place with my mom and brother."

- Ja'liyah Rainer, 11

"I usually go out to eat at McDonald's with a group of friends or my family after the concerts."

Amiya Merrill, 12

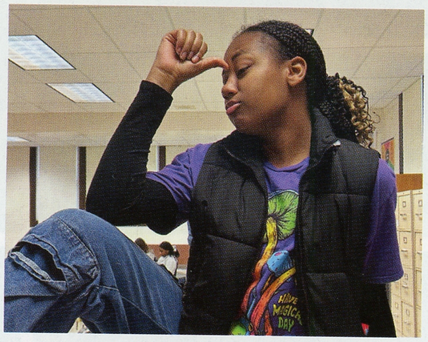


"I usually go out to eat to somewhere, like Buffalo Wild Wings, with friends after the concerts."

EJ Mumma, 11

WHY *Choir?*

"Singing has always been something my family has done, so I decided to try it out, and I just fell in love with it. I have gotten to meet great singers, and have gotten to learn a lot of new things. I plan on continuing with choir."

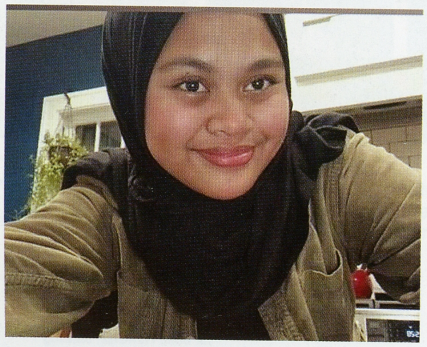


Malaysia Arrington-Mentria, 11

"I joined Choir because I like singing. It's a nice, cool period, so it makes my life less stressful. I am going to continue with choir."

Ninah Payney, 10

"I joined because I like singing, and it's fun to sing with other people. I made a lot of friends in choir, and also, I learned about notes and how to read music sheets. I do plan on continuing choir, but it's really hard, since I have to go back to Indonesia, and there aren't that many options to be in choir."



Aqilah Saputri, 11

SYMPHONIC & CONCERT CHOIR

Symphonic & Concert Choir

There are a variety of people involved in choir every year at RIHS. The class is open to anyone, regardless of the length of time you have been in choir, even if you have not uttered a single tune in your entire life. Even with the diversity of the students, they all share one common thing- the love for music. Destinee Schappert said, "When I was younger, I really loved music, and when I found out that choir was an option, I instantly signed up." Many times, once you have been in Concert Choir, Mr. Voigt, the Choir Director, oftentimes moves the students to Symphonic Choir. Destinee said, "I would like to move up to Symphonic Choir. The reason I stayed in Concert was so one of my friends could join, and see if she likes it or not." Destinee plans to continue choir in high school and possibly beyond.

Like many other groups, choir provides opportunities for the students to interact and get to know each other. "Choir has helped me socially. I've made a lot of new friends from being in choir. In choir, you have to be able to communicate, sometimes, so that always helps to make new friends," Destinee stated. Choir can come with a few challenges, like any club, sport, or class. One challenge for Destinee has been the fact that many times, they sing in different foreign languages.

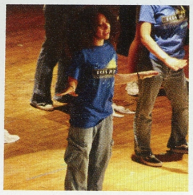
Since students can take choir multiple years, the class is always one where students make great memories. Destinee said, "I definitely have a lot of long lasting memories in choir, like one day, Mr. Voigt came to school, he had a pair of socks that had his face on them."

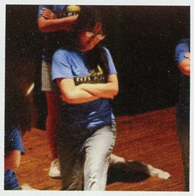
OUR *favorite* TUNE

"My favorite song was 'A Musical'. I liked it a lot because of the dance. It was a bunch of different Broadway styles all in one number."
- NJ Nocentelli, 12

"My favorite song was 'Helpless' because I love *Hamilton*, and it was really fun to perform. The soloists on that song were also really great."
- Eliza Mathews, 10

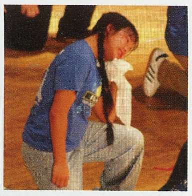
"My favorite song was 'We Go Together' because *Grease* is one of my favorite musicals, and that's where the song comes from."
- Ninah Payney, 10





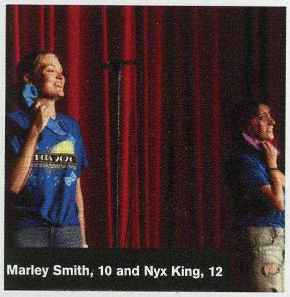
"I loved 'Helpless' from *Hamilton*. That song was so bomb. I really liked it because it's very catchy and it was very musical-ly."
- Say Law Eh Htoo, 10

"My favorite song from the Pops Concert was 'Helpless' from *Hamilton* because I loved the effort and energy everyone put into the song to make it sound good."
- Ilisa Fornal, 10

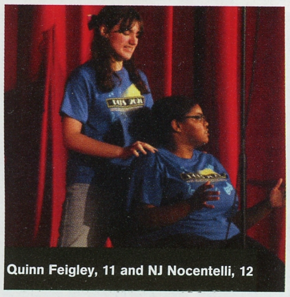


"I like 'We Go Together' because of the choreography and partnering during that one *trust fall* part."
- Christina Min, 10

A MUSICAL *spectacle*



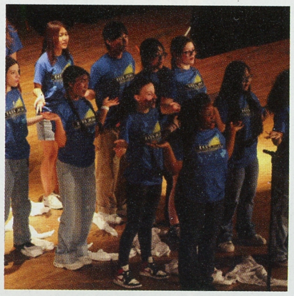
Marley Smith, 10 and Nyx King, 12

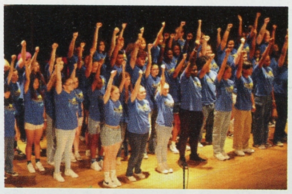


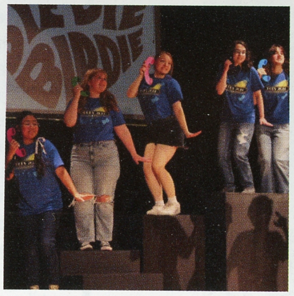
Quinn Feigley, 11 and NJ Nocentelli, 12

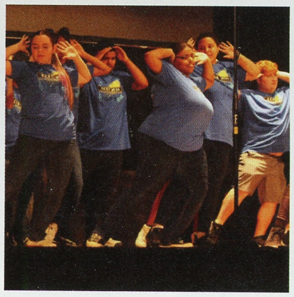
The Pops Concert does not only consist of singing and dancing, but also skits! The Choir students come up with comedic skits to include in the concert for the audience to enjoy.

POPS 2024 *broadway*

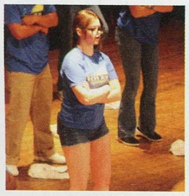








MOVING TO *the beat*



"Dancing for Pops was exhilarating. It really brought me out of my comfort zone, and brought a lot of people into my social group from it. The Pops Concert is one of the best parts of Choir."

- Katherine Gummow, 11

"Well, dancing is pretty normal for me, and I actually think it's really fun to dance. Dancing is a way to express yourself, and I really think it was fun to do at Pops. The reason I like to dance is because I do it all the time, being in Color Guard and in theater."
- Quinn Feigley, 11

"It was definitely a different experience than the other choir concerts, but figuring out the moves with my other choir friends was a lot of fun."

- Tyler Whitten, 11

"I really enjoyed being a part of Pops Concert because I can express my rhythm in dancing and singing. It makes me feel like I can be myself."

- Francesca Guyette, 11

"Dancing at Pops is a lot like dancing for the musical, especially since the choreographer is the same for both. However, dancing for Pops is easier, and a bit more laid back."

- Thom Elliot, 12

Dear Pops Concert,

"Pops Concert season is my favorite because it's so much fun! The singing and dancing as a group is fun, too, but I meant when we get the chance to sing a song on our own! Being in the Pops Concert is also really great because it's at the end of the year, so school's almost over!"

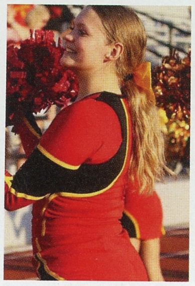
Sincerely,
Marley Smith

Dear Gray Matters,

"During my time at Rocky, I have joined clubs, played sports, attended events, and much more. Amongst all of these groups, I have never felt so inclined to return week after week as I do with Gray Matters. I wouldn't want to spend my Wednesday mornings anywhere but room 158."

Sincerely,
AJ Stewart

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO *you*



"The Gray Matters is such an amazing program, and it's so nice that I know I can talk about anything, and someone is always there to listen and help."
- Vanessa Boswell

"Gray Matters is a great organization to not only help others, but yourself, too. It has opened my eyes to a lot, and for that, I'm thankful."
- Audrey Hotle

YOU ARE IMPORTANT
FIGHT ON

THE GRAY MATTERS COLLECTIVE
ROCKY

THE GRAY MATTERS COLLECTIVE
YOU ARE IMPORTANT
YOU ARE NOT ALONE
PREVENTION CANNOT WAIT.
YOU ARE NOT ALONE

STARRY NIGHT

I TOOK THE ONE LESS TRAVELED BY,
AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.
-ROBERT FROST

EMPOWERING MINDS, *supporting wellness*

The Gray Matters Collective is an innovative organization that Rocky adopted, and is focused on mental health awareness and advocacy. Founded by Haley DeGreve, this club aims to break the stigma surrounding mental health, support mental health issues among teenagers, and promote a supportive environment within the school. TGMC selects students every year to help create and hold meetings.

Each student leader is expected to hold meetings by themselves or with another leader, which not only helps everyone attending, but also helps each leader with their confidence around others. Mrs. Greenwood, The Gray Matters Chapter Advisor stated, "Gray Matters at our school is super important because it teaches students how to handle their own mental health, while also spreading awareness." Through these efforts, Gray Matters not only empowers students to take charge of their mental health, but also cultivates communities to come together, and not be alone in their struggles.

The overall goal of this group is to increase productive conversation about mental health, and to allow the Rocky community to flourish.

STUDENT *leaders*

"For me, being a student leader means a lot because I know I can have more of an impact to help people that way."
- Leah Kitterman

"Being a student leader means that I can be there for anyone who needs me. Also, I get to inform others about the importance of mental health."
- Abigail Dillard

"Being a student leader means so much to me because it gives me the opportunity to advocate for others."
- Kampbell Allen

FOSTER'S VOICE
THE GRAY MATTERS COLLECTIVE

"To me, being a student leader means helping others to learn more about mental health."
- Alexa Massie

"For me, being a student leader means having the opportunity to not only help people, but also the community, all while educating others about mental health."
- Isaac Perez

"Being a leader, for me, means I get to show responsibility, be a voice for the Class of 2028, am able to meet new people, and be a role model to others."
- Calla Kean

sincerely, OUR STRING seniors

“There will be times when you want to quit, but never do. Because if you stick it out, you’ll be happy you didn’t go through with it. I’m happy I didn’t.”
- Nj Nocentelli, Violist

“Practice.”
- Stella Houk, Violinist

“I appreciate all of the people I’ve met and friends I’ve made. I cannot wait to see this department grow bigger and better.”
- Wyatt Bunch, Violist

“My final message would be to just have fun with it. Do it because you love it. That way, it will always be fun for you.”
- Lukas Heine, Cellist

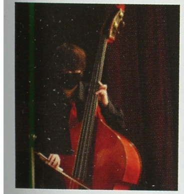
Dear Orchestra,

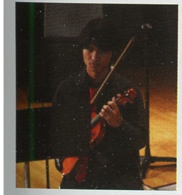
"Being in the Orchestra is an incredible experience. It is a great privilege to be able to create and share music with others, not only with myself, but with other musicians, and I am always happy to be a part of it. I'm always looking forward to being in future performances with my ensemble."

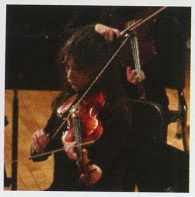
Sincerely,
Payton Decker

ORCHESTRA council

Consisting of 5 students, the Orchestra Council has 5 roles for students to get nominated and voted into. The President is the siphon between the students and their perspective to the director, to make sure all students have a great experience in the program. The Vice President is the right hand to the President, assisting in student leadership. The Secretary makes agendas for meetings. The Librarian assists in music filing for current and past music. The Social Media Coordinator takes photos for the program, and creates ads for concerts and various gigs for people to come see performances. The ‘24-25 Orchestra Council, in order from left to right is Lauren Gottcent, 12 (Librarian), EJ Mumma, 11 (Social Media Coordinator), Angelina Nocentelli, 12 (Vice President), Eden Lovelady, 9 (Secretary), and Stella Houk, 12 (President).







ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL
orchestras

One more year, 4 more concerts, 12 more songs per class, 2 competition-like travels for students, 1 big music department trip, and a million opportunities for the Rock Island High School Orchestra Department!

Rocky's Orchestra Department consists of two classes: Concert and Chamber (which is the highest orchestra in the district), and these orchestras have gained opportunities this year like never before. Mr. Cameron Kotovsky, who is Rocky's Orchestra Director, taking charge of the department since the 2023-24 school year, is really just trying to get the ball rolling and figure out what works best for him and the students. "I'm really trying to open up opportunities we've had in the past, but also gain more for these upcoming classes of students," said Kotovsky. "In the past, we've done Festival of Trees performances, and we brought that back. We are trying something new with both classes, taking them to clinics at Illinois colleges to get feedback from professors and better ourselves."

Now that the juggle with directors is over, students are finally settling in, and so is Mr. Kotovsky. The Orchestra continues to grow and improve!

FIDDILIN'
freshmen

"It's fine, for the most part. There is a big jump in what kind of music we play, but I can handle the challenges thrown at me."
- Xavier Guldenzopf,
Violinist

"It's mostly what I expected. I wasn't being challenged back at the middle school, but I definitely am now."
- Eden Lovelady,
Violist

"It's a really big jump. I really like Chamber just because I'm around people who are on the same level as me, playing wise."
- Joseph Tavernier,
Violinist

CONDUCTING
concert & chamber

"Although this is a music class, my goals for both of my orchestra classes is to find growth in all areas of life. I teach my orchestra classes in a way so that students can utilize the techniques and practices we use in class, no matter their future goals."
- Mr. Cameron Kotovsky,
Department Director

senior ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"AVID has helped me remain accountable for my grades throughout my years here at Rocky. By using tutorials and grade sheets, I have been able to receive help in my academic classes."

- Kamya McDuffy

"Being in AVID really helped me develop my organizational skills, social skills, and critical thinking. The program has been super beneficial towards my academic success. It helped me stay focused and achieve my goals."

- Beline Shukuru

"AVID has helped me be more confident in my work ability in different areas, especially in tutorials, which makes me present what I need to focus on, and get better with my academic work."

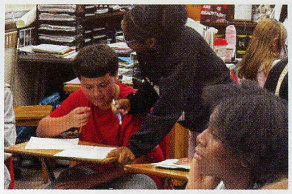
- Keziah Anderson

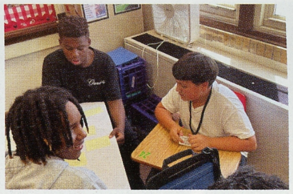
"AVID helped me to keep me organized, and taught me how to take better notes. It has helped with the application process for college, and I've created many bonds, making the experience even better."

- Gladys Perez

"AVID has really helped me stay organized and improve my study skills. It's been super beneficial in guiding me through the academic challenges I've faced this year."

- September Naing





AVID
KNOX
LEARN
EVERY DAY

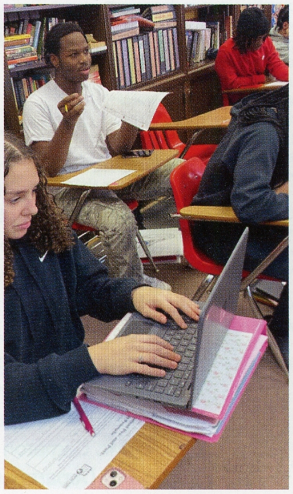
CHALMERS FIELD

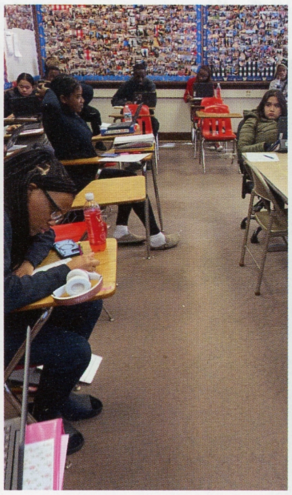
Dear AVID,

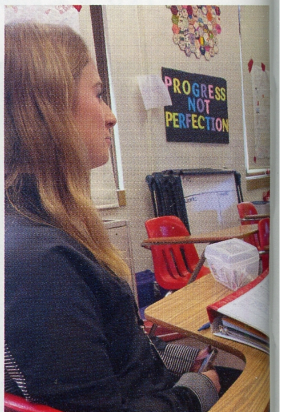
"AVID has made me a better student, improving my organization, collaboration, and writing skills. AVID is a support system that has made my time at Rocky much more enjoyable, and prepared me for college better than I ever could have on my own. Ms. Johnson, especially, has been a great impact on my high school experience and I encourage anyone interested in college to join AVID."

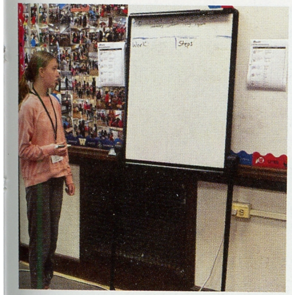
Sincerely,

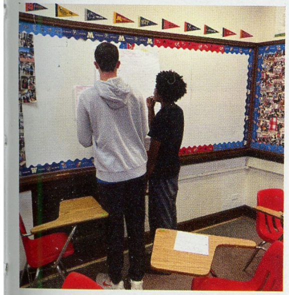
Skylar Stone

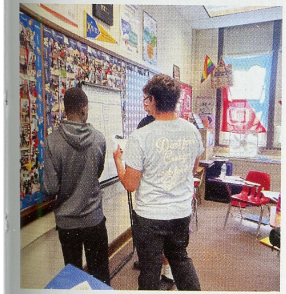










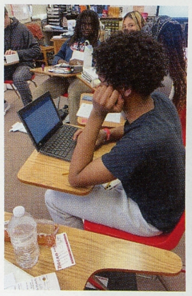


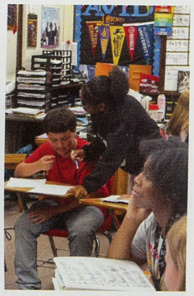
ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION

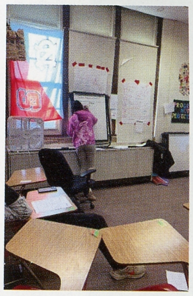
AVID stands for the Advancement Via Individual Determination Program. The overall goal for the program is to prepare high school students for college and career readiness for after high school. In the class, students learn countless career skills to prepare for college in categories including: Student Agency, Rigorous Academic Preparedness, and Opportunity Knowledge. The program is available to all grades in high school. The program differs from grade to grade, whether it be skill development or just student accountability.

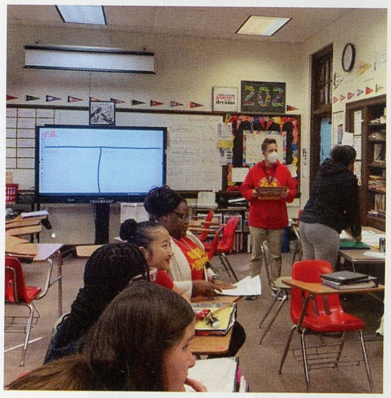
Jennifer Johnson, who has been teaching the program for 10 years, says, "My favorite part is watching the students grow as critical thinkers and problem solvers." From freshman to senior year, the main goal is to grow as a student and get into college. Johnson says, "I absolutely love when the seniors start receiving their college acceptance letters in the fall." All the hard work, from year to year, finally pays off when seeing the accomplishments students worked many years for.

Day to day, the students collaborate together to help their peers in Honors and AP classes, using tutorials and TRF's. For tutorials, there are small group sessions, where students work together to learn and grow academically. Johnson says, "Tutorials are another one of my favorite activities in AVID because I can see students grow so much with the tutorial process."



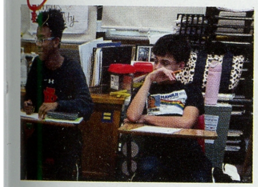






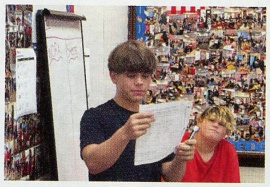
freshmen FAVORITES

MAKING MEMORIES!



"My favorite thing about AVID this year is how my classmates always are respectful, and we all get along with each other, even in the toughest of situations."
- Ellis Swartz, 9

"Making friends."
- Gabriella Schrempf, 9



"My favorite thing this year is the teacher. Mx. Johnson is so supportive and funny. She loves to help if you're struggling, and she is an amazing person."
- Michael Varble, 9

"I would say the consistency and routine of it, and Mx. Johnson's positivity."
- Kylie Caston, 9

"How it pushes me to always be on top of things, like taking notes, and actually processing the notes, and writing in my planner. It helps me plan for the future!"
- Aneisha Williams, 9

SENIOR memories

"When we went and collected cans from the elementary schools for the Hunger Drive and brought them over to the place in Davenport, and had fun."
- Jozie Kerr

"Definitely going to the Student Hunger Drive at the warehouse and having fun."
- Anocled Munezeru

"My favorite memory from Student Council is planning all the different events, and being able to get out of class for them."
- Lizzie Shorten

STEPPING INTO
student council

This year, Student Council has been taking challenges head on! They've been working the Hunger Drive, asking for can donations at school, trick or treating for cans outside of school, creating challenges for students, selling boo bags to raise money during the lunch hours, and even asking for donations right outside of the local HyVee. They partake in a majority of the events that go on at Rocky, whether it's setting up the Homecoming Dance and Pep Rally, organizing the Powderpuff Games, or planning for Dance Marathon. Student Council does it all.

This year, they've had new people join and some returners. Alissa Quinlan is a new member, and said, "Being a part of Rocky's activities in Student Council makes me feel more involved and in touch with the school and their contributions to making it a better place for us, while also allowing me to connect with my peers." A'Keyla Brown is one of the returners, and said, "A Rocky tradition I always get excited for during this time is the Student Hunger Drive because I love how students get together and raise money and cans for people in need. This is my 4th year doing the SHD, and I'm going to miss it!"

But, what's a club without the team leaders? The Student Council staff members believe that Student Council is a HUGE part in carrying on Rocky's traditions. Mr. Tubbs said, "We're in charge of a lot of the things that make Rocky, Rocky, and the school culture." Another advisor, Ms. Munday explained, "I think that Student Council is what keeps Rocky's traditions alive the most. Being able to continue things that we've done along the years at each event." Student Council is always ready to jump in and help with keeping Rocky's traditions alive.

Students collect cans at HyVee for the Hunger Drive.

Rock Island Student Ambassadors attend the Hunger Drive kick off event.

Student Council members volunteer at the Ridgewood Fall Frolic.

MEETINGS:
how are they organized?

"I think it just depends on the meetings. Sometimes, we have a lot to talk about, and sometimes, we don't. I always just like to think about what are the current different events that we are organizing currently. Usually, the night before, I'll message Mrs. Jackson and Ms. Munday, and we'll talk and say, 'Hey, what are some things we can talk about?' in case I'm forgetting something myself."
- Mr. Tubbs

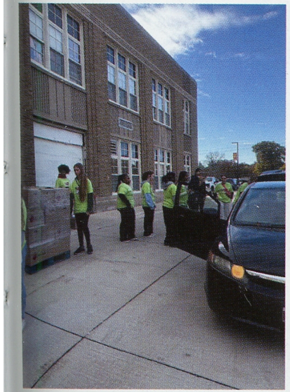
FRESHMAN *recruitment*

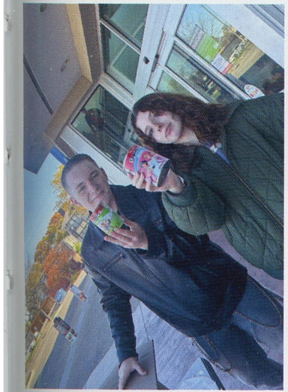
"I joined Student Council as a freshman to be able to participate in the activities that bring fun to the entire student body (Homecoming, Dance Marathon, Hunger Drive, etc), meet new teachers and students, and represent the Class of 2028!"
- Calla Kean

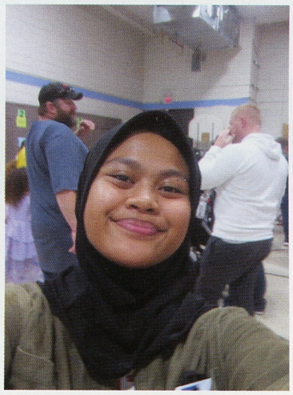
"I did it in elementary school, and we didn't have it in junior high school, and it's good to get involved with school, and it's nice to know what's going on, while still helping out with school events."
- Aneisha Williams

"I joined Student Council because it gives me different opportunities to foster skills like leadership and communication."
- Leia Manning

RIVER BEND FOOD BANK







Dear Student Council,

"Being a part of StuCo at Rocky has been more than amazing. You taught me leadership, teamwork, and resilience. Organizing events and advocating for students made my high school years unforgettable. The friendships and experiences will stay with me forever."

Sincerely,

Jozie Kerr

THE STAFF'S *love for StuCo*

"My favorite part is that I get to work with kids I see every day at school, that I have in class, and I coach. It's just a good way to create more of a good teacher-student relationship, and also help them get involved with the community."
- Ms. Munday

"I love seeing the students get excited about doing the different activities and getting excited with the outcome of the different activities."
- Mrs. Jackson

"What I love about Student Council is it allows me to interact with students outside of the classroom, and also show them the importance of getting engaged, not only in your school, but in your community, and showing that the impact you can have just by simply volunteering to do something."
- Mr. Tubbs

ONE TEAM
ONE GOAL
ONE RIMSD

Dear EAC,

"Joining EAC was one the best decisions I've made. EAC allows me to be around new people who care about the same things, go on really fun and informative field trips, and express my care for the environment. Everybody in EAC is genuine about making environmentally positive changes to our community, and it's really amazing to see. I'm so thankful that I joined my sophomore year because it's made such a positive impact on my time here at Rocky."

Sincerely,

Teegan Conwell

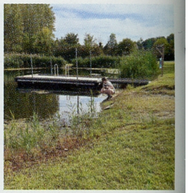
TAKING action

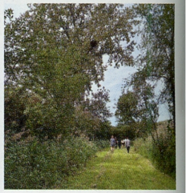
Environmental Action Club's advisor, Mr. Keith Dunker stated, "The Environmental Action Club constantly provides opportunities for helping the environment for our local community." Mr. Dunker wants EAC to always be a resource for students at RIHS and the community about environmental issues.

Dunker believes that environmentalism is important, and as is giving younger people opportunities to take action and get involved with the environment, and find a leadership role they are passionate about.

A favorite club event for Dunker is finding out what new activities students want to do each year. Dunker mentioned, "Our nature hikes have been fun and are new, recent additions." Being the advisor of the EAC, Mr. Dunker said, "EAC membership and active membership is up, 2 to 3 times of the last year's."

Dunker explained that there are many ways to join EAC, like just simply joining the Google classroom, joining the meetings, or checking out their meeting agenda for upcoming events. They help put the ACTION in Environmental Action Club.





OFFICER roles

"To be President means you have to show leadership and lead by example in all the club activities."

- President, Zach Hansen

"To be an At Large officer means I help fill in for those who aren't here, and I help wherever is needed."

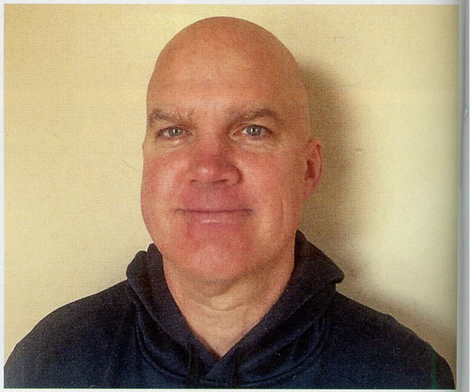
- At Large, Megan Mason

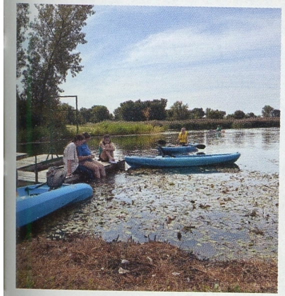
"To be the Social Media Manager means I post about what we're doing, and when we go on field trips, I post pictures, so people know what we're up to."

- Social Media Manager, Quinn Witcraft

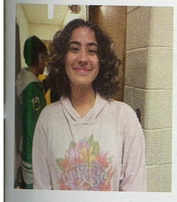
"I enjoy being able to provide hands-on experiences to students passionate about helping the environment. We can read about things all day in school, so it is nice to actually do something within our local communities."

- Keith Dunker



ROCK ISLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL


Favorite Parts of EAC

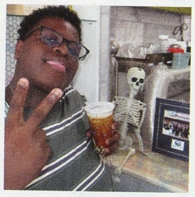


"My favorite parts of EAC include going on field trips and just being able to help spread awareness about environmental issues."
- Teegan Conwell, 11

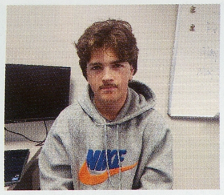
"My favorite part is helping the environment. I really like being outside and being in nature, so helping the environment really makes me happy."
- Zaynah Hassan, 11

"My favorite part is the field trips."
- Carla Nieto, 12

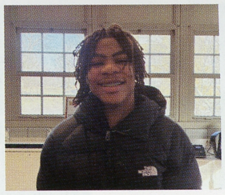
"My favorite part about EAC is learning about the different ways plants and wildlife can help and improve parts of nature, and learning about plant life, wildlife, and nature, overall, is very interesting. I really enjoyed the field trip to the QC Wetlands, when we kayaked, fished, and went on a nice nature walk."
- Merrell Mars, 11



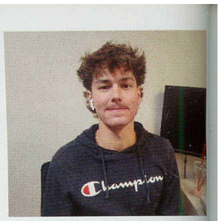
"I took this class for experience and the $5,000 scholarship."
- Carson Banks, 12



"It's a collaborative class, and I get to interact with my friends a lot."
- Kylan Davis, 11



"I took this class to learn how to start my own business, and the $5,000 scholarship."
- Chase Curry, 12



back in BUSINESS

Incubatoredu Entrepreneurship is a business class that teaches students everything they need to know about business- from developing a product, marketing and advertising, to targeting an audience, and of course, money. The students also compete against each other in groups, where every team has to "sell" their idea to a group of investors. "They really do pitch their idea to a group of sharks for their idea," said Mrs. Matson. The winning team receives $5,000. "They win $5,000. They can either invest in their idea or use it towards college," Mrs. Matson explained. The program has been really successful in building great entrepreneurs. "It's a great class, and it mirrors the collaboration aspect of most jobs. Also, we won the National Championship back in 2017," Mrs. Matson stated.

All in all, Incubatoredu Entrepreneurship is a great class for anybody interested in a business career after high school, and has an idea about a potential business plan.

"My favorite part of teaching is watching the students learning, expanding their knowledge, and focusing on one thing. Some struggles the students face include public speaking, like getting up to speak about their pitch. My main goal of the students is to make them build a good business for them. That's the goal for my classroom and students."
- Mrs. Patricia Matson

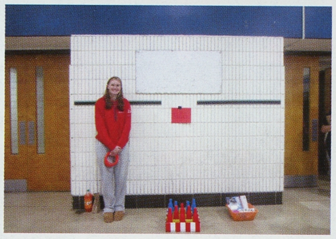
Dear Incubatoredu Entrepreneurship,

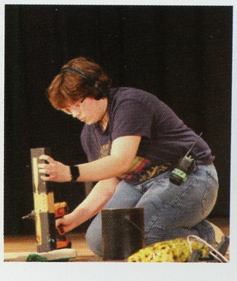
"Being a part of this class has taught me how to deal with problems, and taught me to have more fluency, and how to just listen to people, and build more ideas off of what people have said. I would advise people to take this class."

Sincerely,
Temar Hudson

ithout laughter
-ee cummings
AP ENGLISH

RIVER BEND FOOD BANK
SHO





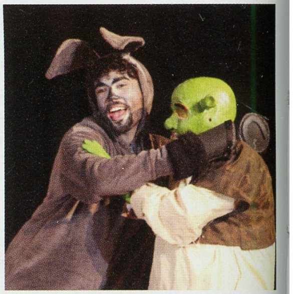
BUCKET LIST
Comes True

Mrs. Dori Foster, the head of the Rock Island High School Theater Department, tackled "Shrek - the Musical" in the spring show. She said, "Shrek has always been on my bucket list of musicals to do."

However, she knew from the beginning that "Shrek" would be one of the hardest musicals for Rocky to pull off. From the tremendous amount of stage crew tasks, they would need to build the sets, make costumes, and do and help with makeup and wigs, the Theater Department was in for a wild roller coaster to come in the next 4 months before the production. Foster stated, "There is a good list of students who pushed this production forward, whether they were off stage or on it. The students came in with can do attitudes, and pushed for the next 4 months."

When the production opened on April 25th and closed on April 27th, 2024, the people who saw the production from the audience were sad to see the production end, but were happy to have seen it. Foster shared, "The fact that I knocked this challenging show off my list is exciting." She would not go back and change anything that happened during the show's run. Foster is proud to have directed "Shrek - the Musical", and watch her students succeed with such a challenging show.

SHREK THE MUSICAL



MY FAVORITE prop

"I love Bethany, the deer. Bethany is the deer I threw off the stage during the song 'Morning Person'. She is a little ripped up from musical, but she is still my favorite prop from the show."
- Quinn Feigley

"Mr. Police Car was seen running across the stage during 'Travel Song.' I took this prop because I was the one holding it, screaming, and running on stage with it."
- Ej Mumma

"Snothers, but also the Puss in Boots cat because he was my stuffed animal. The Snothers were used during the song, 'Make a Move'. There were two of them. Quinn Feigley got one and I got one. Also, the Snothers were pretty much the first prop I ever made, so it's very special to me."
- Maisy Woods

"The zebra and the giraffe in 'Travel Song' were my favorite props. I was the one who made those props, and I think they looked really good, besides the zebra being glued on backwards. They looked really good from far away and up close."
- Easter Naing

Dear Cast of Shrek

"Being a part of this show, as a lead, was a very great honor. It has made me a better actor, taking me out of my comfort zone, and forcing me to adapt and find new ways to express certain aspects of a character. It raised me to a new level, musically and professionally, as it was a big responsibility to always be on point while playing Farquad, and being a part of the musical, as a student."

Sincerely,
Thom Elliott

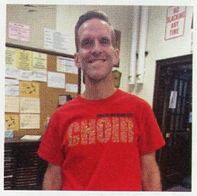
BEHIND
the scenes

Meet the Stage Crew of “Shrek the Musical”, the amazing team who made, built, and designed the sets and costumes for the musical. Also, some of the crew was in the production, as well.

MEET THE directors

“I have been conducting musical for 23 years now. My favorite part has to be Opening Night because you get the full thing, impact the crowd, lots of energy, get their feedback, ENERGY!”
- Mr. Tollenaer

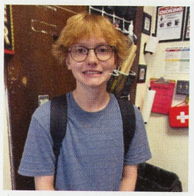
“I have been directing musical for 20 years. One of my favorite parts is getting to the end and seeing it from an audience perspective, and being able to just watch it. Everything the cast does every year continues to impress me.”
- Mrs. Foster



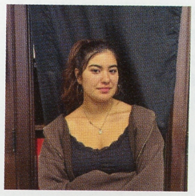
“I have been directing music for the musical for 16 years. My favorite part of ‘Shrek’ was seeing kids who are not singers get involved in the process, and eventually join choir due to it.”
- Mr. Voigt

“The ‘Travel Song’ green half walls, that were seen behind Shrek and Donkey during that scene. It was fun to add the flowers on to the walls.”
- Zee Phares, 12

“I made part of the dragon puppet. Specifically, the dragon puppet’s tail, which was 6 feet of foam, lots of duct tape, and different colors of fabric.”
- Nyx King, 12

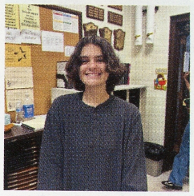


“My favorite was probably the Duloc castle! It was 12 feet tall.”
- Adrian Mills, 11



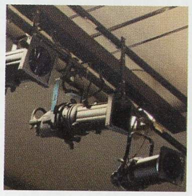
“I made a fluff suit for Shrek. It was two t-shirts sewn together, stuffed with stuffing to make Shrek look fuller. It was an undergarment for the costume.”
-Yessenia Leos-Ochoa, 12

“The coolest thing I made was probably the Duloc dancers’ knee pads because they all had to be hand sewn, and there were about 10 Duloc dancers who needed them.”
- Emily O’Brien, 12



“Overall, the set was the coolest thing I helped build.
It was really fun to watch the progress, and how it came together for the actual show.”
- Tobi Moravetz, 12

“Spotlights! I made the cues, and I had to teach a new person on how to use them.”
- Caydence Johnson - Scriver, 12



the OEDIPUS cycle

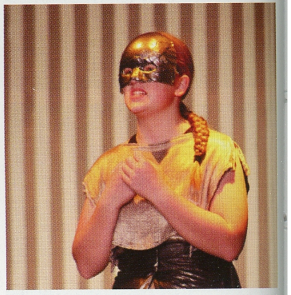
The Drama Department gives a behind the scenes, or rather, behind the mask, look at Rock Island High School's 2024 Fall Play "The Oedipus Cycle"! Consisting of three 30 minute plays, "The Oedipus Cycle" contains "Oedipus the King", "Oedipus at Colonus", and "Antigone".

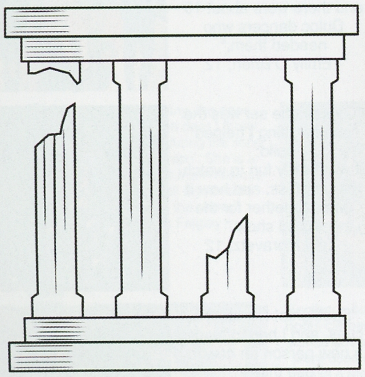
"Oedipus the King" tells the story of Oedipus (played by Thom Elliott, 12), King of Thebes, who, unknowingly, kills his father, takes rule of Thebes, and marries his mother, and has kids by her, including Antigone and Ismene. After the prophet Tiresias (played by Nj Nocentelli, 12) tells him the truth of his past, Oedipus refuses to believe him. After the truth unfolds, he tears out his eyes and banishes himself from Thebes. "Oedipus at Colonus" is a sequel to the first. Led by his daughters, Antigone (played by Nyx King, 12) and Ismene (played by Ilisa Fornal, 10), to the city of Colonus, where he is urged to leave by the town villagers (Chorus) because they fear he will curse the city. Brother-in-law/ Uncle Creon (played by Morris Nunn, 12) alerts him that if he comes back to Thebes, it will cause a civil war. Finally, Oedipus passes away in the city of Colonus. In "Antigone", the final chapter of the story, Antigone wants to bury her late brother, Polyneices (played by Shee Ler Moo, 11), knowing she will die by doing so. As she goes to bury her brother, she and her cousin/ fiancé, Haemon, who is also Creon's son, are locked in a cave. Although Tieresias tells him he has done so, he still pushes back on this truth. The story ends with both Antigone and Haemon committing suicide.

Rocky's Theater Department typically doesn't do shows like this. Typically, the department goes with more modern shows, but to give the students a real challenge, with togas for the costume department, complicated lines for the actors, and Greek structures for the building team, they decided on this trilogy for the fall play. "Actors getting memorized early enough was definitely a big challenge," Foster said. "Along with elements of sound, composing music specifically for the show, getting correct lighting to coincide with the mood in the text, and matching costumes for everyone in chorus, our student led departments really had a run for their money with this show."

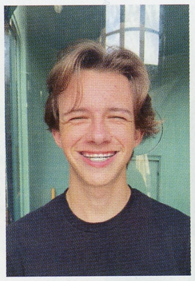
For the past 2 years, the department has had student composed sounds for fall plays. "It just starts off with just randomly placing notes on a staff and seeing what sounds right," Head of Sound, Madz Hendrickx (10) said. "A lot of tweaking comes along, but sooner or later, you have something that sounds like a song. It takes a while, but it is fun!"

With the need for variety for the sake of educational theater, and the request from students for something older, a challenge turned into success for the students involved in the fall production.

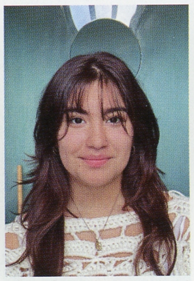




"My favorite thing has been the steps onto the platforms, because the individual steps were made from recycled material, so it was more of a challenge."
- Adrian Mills, 11

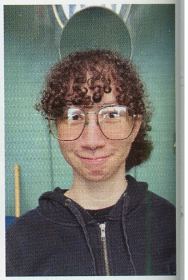


"My favorite thing that I helped build was the staircase onto the stage. I feel like it has helped me problem solve, and look at things in a new light, since we've had to fix it a lot."
- Myaels Hoffeditz, 10

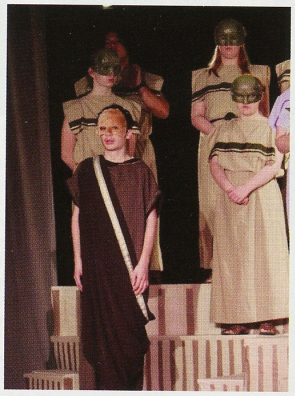


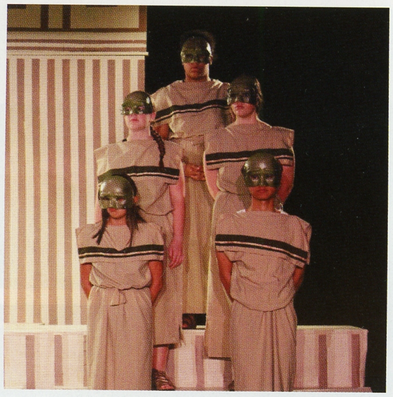
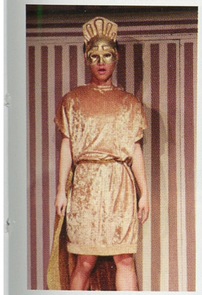
"Designing the costumes has been a great experience because it has been a new genre and era for me."
- Yessenia Leos- Ochoa, 12

"My favorite thing that I've built is the back wall behind the stairs, which will become a beautiful archway."
- Zee Phares, 12



"My favorite thing I've built has been the platforms. I felt they were easy to make."
- Caydence Johnson- Scriver, 12



"I like talking in Old English. It's very fun."
- Lauren Gottcent, 12

"Since the language is so different, it helps add emotions and dramatics that will affect and move the audience."
- Morris Nunn, 12

"Although the long monologues are hard to memorize, once you get them down, they are very fun to perform."
- Angelina Nocentelli, 12

"I love being able to act out deep emotions with the character that I'm playing, especially since I've always been a part of tech."
- Shee Ler Moo, 11

"Honestly, I just love how it is so different than the characters that I usually play."
- Thom Elliott, 12

the person BEHIND the mask

"It pretty much feels the same as any other play. Weaving in a chorus can be challenging, and getting them to perform as one unit. I'm excited for the audience to see all of the student-created aspects."
- Dorian Foster, Director

Dear The Oedipus Cycle,

"Thank you for being my final fall play. The memories that I've made from this play alone will heavily reflect on my time of being a part of the RIHS Drama Club. Even through the ups and downs, I've still managed to have so much fun, and make new friends. I'm so grateful to have worked on this play."

Sincerely,
Kayla Mathews

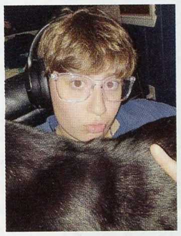
behind CLOSED curtains

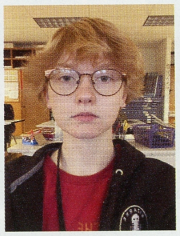
The Rock Island High School Drama Club is a club that allows Rocky students to have self expression through acting, and teaches students how to work as a team in order to create performances that everyone can enjoy. Theater is an experience, as it takes a look behind the curtains, and into how much work goes into putting together a show for everyone. Being a part of Drama Club is a chance that allows Rocky students to not only make friends, but find a family that allows creativity, and hopes to spill into the hearts of the people who watch the performances. "If you're willing to work, create, and deal with all kinds of people, this is a good place for you," said Mrs. Dorian Foster.

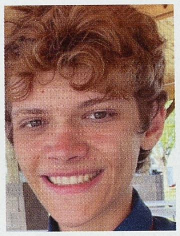
The Drama Club has gone through many changes throughout the years, and this year is no different. The students have worked hard to improve their skills in order to conceive a fantastic performance, including dealing with struggles and finding solutions. "They're willing to explore new material and new ways of doing things. And, they get pretty decent at figuring out how to work with different kinds of people," stated Foster. Being in an extra curricular is a good way to get involved, learn something new, and even make new friends.

Theater is an amazing club to be a part of, and it can help harness a new skill students may not have known they needed. "It helps with communication, analysis, creativity, and problem solving. It's also a good opportunity to bring in cross-curricular skills and knowledge," said Foster.

PERFORMING IN the arts


"I really enjoy being able to lead the Drama Club, and help it run smoothly."
- Zee Phares, 12


"It's nice to be recognized as a leader in the community, and I feel like I do a good job representing the club."
- Adrian Mills, 11


"I feel like I have a very high responsibility, in not only making decisions for our course, as well as what direction it should go in for the year."
- Thom Elliott, 12

"Although I still feel like a regular member, I am honored to be in the position. I love being able to teach people new skills, like sewing!"
- Yessenia Leos-Ochoa, 12

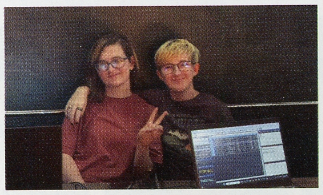
Dear Drama Club,

"Being in theater has impacted my life because when I first joined theater, my life wasn't the best. I was going through a lot, and theater helped me take my mind off of all the bad things. I'm truly grateful to be in such an amazing program."

Sincerely

Zoey Johnson, 9

INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY
HONOR ACHIEVEMENT

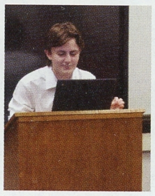


You will never make yourself better by tearing others down.
INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY

oui love FRENCH CLUB

"I joined French Club because I wanted to experience French culture and cuisine, as well as I wanted to meet new people and try something new."
- Kathryn Galbraith, 10

"I decided to join French Club because I love hanging out with Madame B, and she always brings the best snacks."
- Joslynn Henderson, 12



"I joined French Club because it gives me more opportunities to interact with the language and the culture. For me, getting to celebrate things like Mardi Gras makes learning French more meaningful, by connecting it to real traditions that I can be a part of."
- Ethan Ignatius, 11

"I decided to join French Club because I wanted to learn about the culture and meet new people!"
- Charlotte O'Hern-Maidak, 9

découvrir LA FRANCE

Joining French Club is like buying a ticket to France. French Club is a great opportunity to meet new people, create relationships with teachers, have lots of fun, and eat yummy French food.

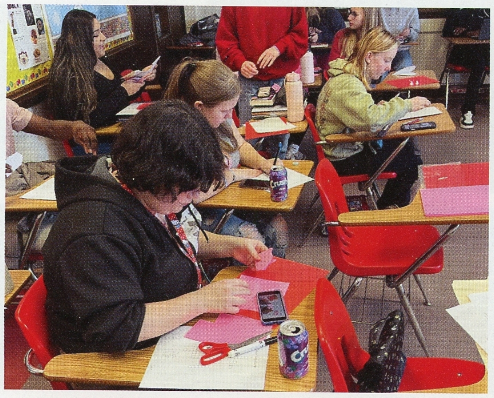
Madame Bouchareb, the French Club advisor, has been teaching French here at Rocky for over 20 years. While teaching, she has also been the advisor for the same amount of time. French Club does lots of fun activities throughout the school year. Some of the activities the club does throughout the year are the back to school picnic, the Halloween Party, and celebrating Mardi Gras.

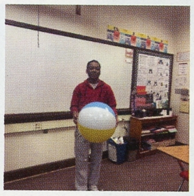
Madame B explained her goals she had for the club and some of the challenges the club faced. "My goals are to instill in my students the love for different cultures. Some of the challenges we face is less involvement from the members," said Madame B. French Club member of three years, Millie Gidaszewski explained some of the goals she had as a member of French Club, stating, "To be able to learn French traditions and how to celebrate them."

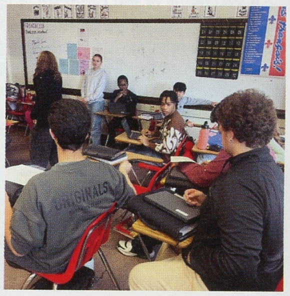
In French Club, students got to do a lot of fun activities. Madame B shared why students should join, stating students could, "Meet new people, and learn about the customs and traditions of other countries." Similarly, Gidaszewski shared why she joined the club, stating, "Because I like French culture and being able to try new foods and activities."

Gidaszewski shared what it meant to her to be a part of the club, stating, "To enjoy, experience, and learn French culture and celebrate with friends!"

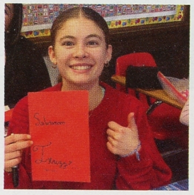
Learning about other cultures, traditions, countries and their holidays is a lot of what French Club does, all while making new friends and memories.







JOYEUSE SAINT-
VALENTIN!



De ton
administratrice
Secrète

Dear French Club,

"Joining French Club is an excellent way to meet more people, as well as Madame B. She is one of the kindest and sweetest teachers at Rocky. She makes every experience here amazing! So thankful for the friendships and fun I've had!"

Sincerely,
Claire O'Hern-Maidak

FORGING
new paths

The Welding Program is a cornerstone of career and technical education. Led by Wade Weber and Jason Kitterman, and supported by Department Leader Mrs. Stephanie Dieudonne and Assistant Principal Mr. Dan Logan, this program equips students with essential technical welding skills and soft skills, which Weber described as "just as important, if not more so, than technical ability."

Students have numerous opportunities to apply their skills. One highlight is the Rock Island Grand Prix, where they help set up and tear down the track. Weber explained, "While we are doing this, we are fixing and repairing the metal barrels and fencing. The field trip is tied into a lesson on working in the field." This allowed students to "learn on the go, as they work together." Additionally, field trips to local businesses like John Deere Harvester and the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union introduced students to various welding careers.

A key focus of the program is to set goals that prepare students for success. Weber stated, "In Welding class, a top priority is learning how to be a skilled welder in all three processes," including ARC, MIG, and TIG. He emphasized the importance of industry knowledge, such as "terminology, blueprint reading, and the tools used in manufacturing." While technical skills are crucial, soft skills are equally essential. Weber noted, "Companies tell us that knowing how to be a good employee is just as, if not more, important than technical skill."

By the end of the program, students gain confidence, independence, a valuable trade, and they will earn a welding certificate from Black Hawk College. Weber said, "This is something they can carry with them for life - a skill that allows them to make a good living, and gives them confidence." The Welding Program empowers students with lifelong skills, preparing them for success in any path they choose.

JUSTIN SHARP DRIVE

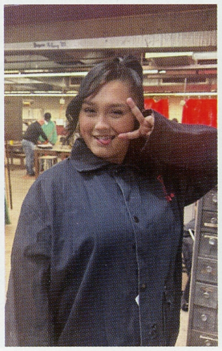
Dear Welding

"Welding was a class where I felt like I could be myself in, and it was the reason I enjoyed coming to school. It introduced me to future career options, and a hobby I never would have thought to enjoy as much as I do. I am very grateful for the memories I made, and people I have met."

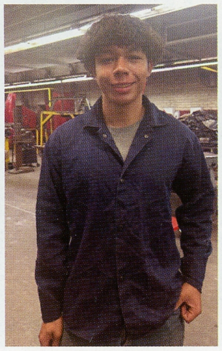
Sincerely,

Yessenia Leos-Ochoa

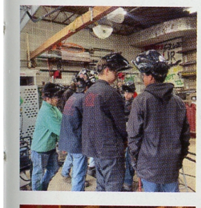
SENIOR
Welders

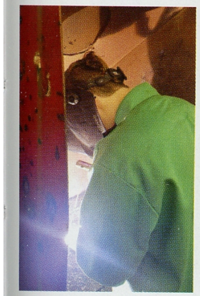
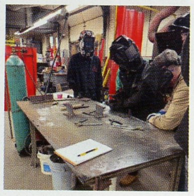
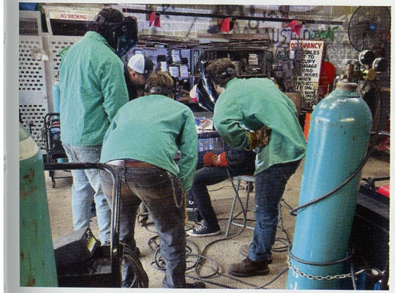


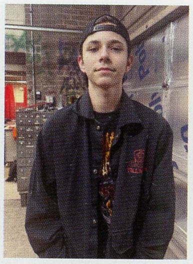
"I've been welding since my junior year, and I like everything about it. I didn't want to take this class at first, but once I did it, I really liked it."
- Evelia Lucero Marrufo



"This is my second year of doing welding, and I like welding because it gets you ready for the future, and I think it's fun."
- Jesus Sosa

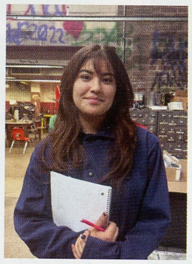


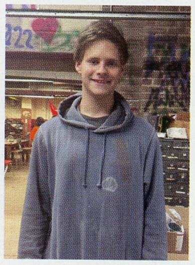






"I'll hopefully get into a welding job that will make a lot of money. I just really like welding. It pays really well, and I just love doing it."
- Jose Valtierra

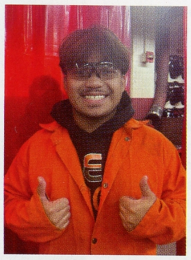
"After high school, I was thinking about welding or an internship, but instead, I want to go into engineering, but welding inspired that."
-Yessenia Leos-Ochoa



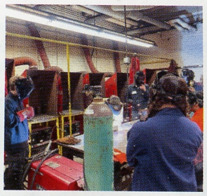


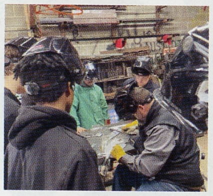
"I'm going to apply to John Deere right after high school because I love to weld. It's been a hobby for a little while now."
- Christian Pearson

"I'm about to go into a trade because, for me, it's easy money, and welding is just fun."
-Eh Ta



CRAFTING
careers





SPARKS OF
memories

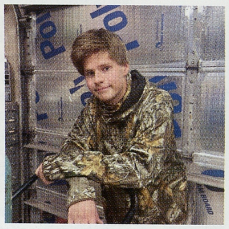
"My favorite memory is every day I came in, I was excited to be in school."

- Xavier Willoughby

"I enjoyed working as a team the most, so that would be my favorite memory."
- Colin Galbraith

"Probably either setting up the go cart race downtown, or having all the Lincoln and Miller techs come in for a field trip."
- Maximilian Salaverria

"My favorite memory this year was the welding processes and gas demo."
- Jesus Sosa



"My favorite memory would have to be learning to pulse weld."
- Christian Pearson

The advisors of the African American Heritage Club discuss why the club was created, hopes for the club, qualities gained from being in the club, and more.

The African American Heritage Club came into existence in the year 2007. Dr. Grandberry-Pugh stated that the club was created due to there being a need, explaining, “It was a matter of creating an outlet to give young African American students, and the building, the opportunity to learn about the positives of African Americans who have existed and do exist today, also, the positive contributions that they have made to the development of America to try and counter the negative things that may be out there about the culture.”

A few activities the club has organized are bringing in African American professionals representing various careers to inform the members of the club and other students in the building. These professionals range from business owners, college professors, doctors, and more. The students decide what will be their topics of discussion during club meetings; topics of discussion can stem from things taking place in their surrounding community, high school, and/or or in the country. The Black History Month Program is another event that the students organize and present to the high school every year. In addition, members of the club take trips to local colleges and HBCUs annually, as well. Such endeavors did lead to one member of the club receiving a full ride scholarship to an HBCU.

The advisors of the club have many hopes for both the club and the students in the club. They hope that the students who are involved in the club continue to stay involved. They hope that the club will continue to grow, having more people participate. They hope that the newer students begin to develop their leadership abilities, as well as their confidence. They hope to continue educating the building on African American history, and, of course, the group’s trips to HBCUs this year. They want to go to local colleges and local museums. They hope that their Black History Program will be a dynamic program, as well.

Much like other groups, the African American Heritage Club instills qualities in its students to help them be successful. Dr. Grandberry-Pugh says a few qualities the students learn and gain from being in their club are the development of their leadership skills, the comfortability in their own skin, and their self identity. Dr. Williams adds, “We want them to be able to use any and all skills that they learned and gained within the program, especially when they’re in those spaces outside of the school building. I think most importantly, in the school building right now, because there are a lot of spaces within the building that aren’t representative of African American students and of the culture and heritage, so that when they are in spaces, that standing up and being proud to be themselves, to represent their culture and not feel like they have to be anything but be themselves. A lot of that relates to just building that confidence to be able to stand, even when you’re standing alone.”

Both Dr. Grandberry-Pugh and Dr. Williams look forward to getting to know the newer students in their group this year, seeing them get out of their shells, getting to see their growth, their leadership, and seeing what this new group will bring to the table this year.

student

V.P.

“Being Vice President in the African American Heritage Club can be overwhelming at times, especially making it to meetings and having to figure out what we need to do for the program coming up in February. What makes a good leader- the determination of oneself, and knowing what can be changed within the school or our community. Being a group leader has helped me, since I can see my peers' opinions in a different light, and their own perspective, which lets me see how I can apply it to my own lifestyle.”

- Keziah Anderson

“I am merely a guide. I am someone here to help students by giving them the information they need, teach necessary skills that they need to learn, and model being the person I am trying to inspire them to become, which is the best version of themselves.”

Dr. Grandberry-Pugh

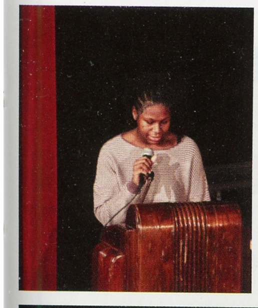
“I see myself as a cultural and educational resource for club members for the support of their academic career journeys. My goal is always to inspire and encourage the hearts and minds of youth, as they question the world and take advantage of the opportunities of growth presented throughout their time in the club.”

Dr. LaShanta Williams

HOPES & GOALS

hopes & goals

The advisors of the African American Heritage Club share their hopes and goals for the students in AAHC.



PERSEVERENT
PATIENT
MOTIVATED
UNIQUE
HAPPY
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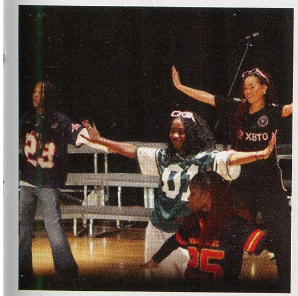
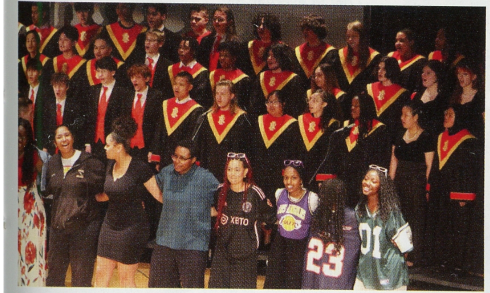


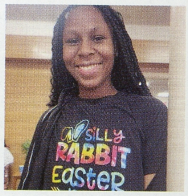


IMPACTS & MEMORIES

impacts & memories

"My favorite memory is performing on stage, talking about Black History, and dancing. African American Heritage Club has impacted my life by showing me more about my people's history, and showing me what great things we've brought to the world, making me appreciate it more."

Camron Anderson, 12



"My favorite memory is getting to hear all the authors in the Quad Cities, hearing what inspired them to write, and how they got to do what they do, which was really cool for myself, because I am not a writer. As a freshman coming in, learning about all these HBCU's, preparing for college. Also, new people, who are welcoming, and it's just a good environment to be in."

Aneisha Williams, 9

"My favorite memory is listening to the speakers that come to the meetings. Being the historian has let me learn about HBCU's."

Saveah Day, 10

"My favorite memory is connecting and meeting all of the different amazing African American people that are in the Quad Cities area. The AAHC has helped me learn about so many different things that African Americans have invented. As a freshman, I am ready to keep learning."

Leia Manning, 9

"My favorite AAHC memory is the Black History Program of 2024. It was amazing performing, and it was very fun preparing for it. AAHC has impacted me a lot because I've become more known in the community, and I have met so many people because of AAHC."

Abia Ndayishimiye, 11

Dear AAHC,

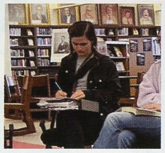
"Being in this club has taught me the importance of a community. I can truly say that I have had a support system for all of my four years at Rock Island High School. I have had the honor of partaking in our annual Black History Program. These programs have not only been beneficial to students, but to me. I have learned about the significant contributions and achievements of black individuals throughout history. Overall, being in this club has educated me on Black Culture, and has helped me appreciate who I am, as a person."

Sincerely,

Beline Shukuru, President

SILENT *book club*

"I can read for a good amount of time, with little to no interruptions."
- Eliana Solis, 10



"It's a time where I can just relax and read something, and when we have snacks, it makes it even better."
- Olivia Strandberg, 10

"I like that we can all read together, and it gives you class time to read because, otherwise, you may not have time to read in your day with all of the homework and stuff."
- Megan Mason, 10

READING *rocks*

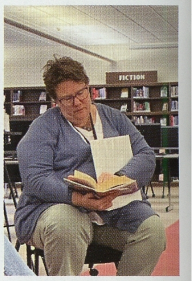
Reading Rocks meets in the library every other week during 6th hour. It is a friendly environment for people who normally wouldn't meet up, to come and discuss their ideas about different books. This club is run by the fabulous librarians, Mrs. Mary Mendelin and Mrs. Amy Curtiss, with help from Rocky's favorite youth public librarian, Ms. Emily! "We are open to all students, so we have representation from freshmen to seniors," said Mrs. Mendelin.

Reading Rocks is an open community of book lovers, who just enjoy talking and laughing together. People join Reading Rocks for many different reasons. Most of the time, it is because people want to be around others who also love to read and talk about what they read! "I joined Reading Rocks because I wanted to find a place where I could express my passion for books- and hatred for other books- openly," says member and student leader, sophomore Alaina Bonja. Reading Rocks is a fun club for everybody involved!

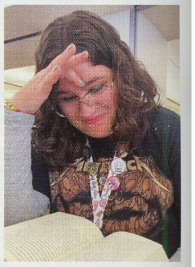
READING REALLY *does rock*

"The people that come to Reading Rocks are the most interesting people in the school, and I treasure the time I get to spend with them. It is a privilege to talk about books and hear opinions from such a great group of humans."

- Mrs. Amy Curtiss

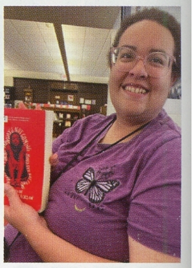


"I enjoy getting to spend time with people who love books just as much as me! It's really awesome seeing so many like-minded people in one room, and I get to express my opinions in a place where otherwise, it would've seemed random."
- Alaina Bonja, 10



"It feels a little weird knowing you're one of the older students in the room, but it's fun to be there."

- Christen Egan, 12



Dear Reading Rocks,

"Being in this group has been a joy. It has brightened up my school day!"

Sincerely,
Christen Egan

LESSONS *in literature*

"I hope students learn to discuss literature and life with people from many different backgrounds and points of view. I also hope they have a positive experience with the library and reading that they will carry throughout their lives, and pass on to their spheres of influence."
- Mrs. Amy Curtiss

"I hope students will continue to love reading, and will feel welcome in a safe space of other readers. I hope they will read some books they might not have chosen on their own, and broaden their reading horizons. I hope they will feel comfortable in the Rocky library, and will continue to use libraries throughout their lives."
- Mrs. Mary Mendelin

"I enjoy the rush of adrenaline that comes with being a student leader. I feel accomplished, in other words, being in a position of power. I also really enjoy getting to oversee and brainstorm events with Mr. Behnke for our club."
- Alaina Bonja, 10

"Being a student leader is so fun! I love helping people, and helping the community around me!"
- Lauren Gottcent, 12

"Having the opportunity to help around my community and school."
- Christen Egan, 12

FRESHMEN
get involved

"The snacks we get during club time are really good, and helping with events at school or for the adult Rotary is really fun, so I would say it's a fun experience."
- Gloria Wah, 9

"I enjoy the people. They always want to know about me."
-Chloé Bourron, 9
French Exchange Student

ROTARY
interact club

The Rotary Interact Club meets every Tuesday after school. The club is run by Mr. Behnke, one of the Spanish teachers. "I have been involved with Rotary for several years, and believe it is an important organization," said Behnke. The current Rotary President, sophomore Alaina Bonja, said, "I enjoy the sense of community in Rotary. Everybody at Rotary has the same goal as you: to help others. It's such a lovely feeling, knowing other people care as much as you."

Rotary Club is a volunteer based club that does lots of different activities around the school and community. Rotary Club helps run the Pride Store, Career Day, and has a Halloween activity! The club also participates in the Labor Day and Homecoming Parades.

Some might think that the Rotary Club is not something that students would be interested in. But, Mr. Behnke knows how to make students invested. "I try to plan fun activities and we have snacks!" he explained. The students have fun, while also getting an opportunity to help others!

The Pride Store

The Pride Store is a small shop that opens during the lunch periods. Students are given Pride Cards for good behavior or going above and beyond, and are able to spend them to buy snacks or little knick-knacks.

Parades

The Rotary Club participates in the Labor Day Parade and the Homecoming Parade. They walk with the adult Rotary Club for the Labor Day Parade. This year, some people rode in a convertible, while others walked behind.

Dear Rotary Club,

"Even though I was a junior when I first joined, you have been so fun, and given me experiences that I will never forget! Thank you for giving me new opportunities!"

Sincerely,
Lauren Gottcent

Latin American Student Organization

Day of the Dead
DEAD

BIENVENIDOS

MAÑANA
SERA
BONITO

preserving our past

Becoming a young adult means finding a purpose. Growing into an individual is instrumental to finding personal interests, views, and more specifically, culture. The Latin American Student Organization, created 6 years ago, is a club that focuses specifically on that.

"The purpose of the club is to provide a scholastic, social, and cultural environment to our organization, and to bring unity and pride among Latino students here at Rocky. Students decided to start LASO in order to have a greater voice at Rocky," said Mrs. Ramirez, advisor of the Latin American Student Organization at Rock Island High School.

"We hope to develop students through education, engagement, and leadership. We hope students are able to develop these skills, and carry them into their future careers," said Ramirez.

Although a small group of students, LASO provides students with opportunities to represent their culture. The club has participated in both years of the Culture Fest at Rock Island High School, and this year, they plan on helping in the festival again.

The club will also be participating in a service project, making Dignity Pouches, and donating them to the local junior high. Dignity Pouches are similar to make up bags, but filled with feminine pads that can be placed in the girl's restrooms or distributed to teachers, in case a student in the classes may need one. In this small act, the club not only brings awareness to the high demand of feminine hygiene products in public schools, but gives the students a sense of purpose in helping others. Through finding their purpose, the club strives to help students find their passions. The Latin American Student Organization creates a safe environment to uphold students' best interests, and assists them in representing their culture.

Dear LASO,

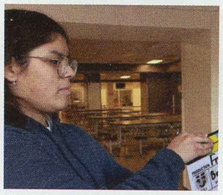
"Thank you for the memories and friendships I have made in this club. Thank you for helping me come out of my shell, meet new people, and bond over our shared culture."

Sincerely,

Yessenia Leos-Ochoa

meet the CREW

"I joined Fresh Films because I wanted to learn the behind the scenes process. I learned how to work a camera, slate, and how to be a director."
- Quinn Feigley, 11



"I wanted to know more about audio and how to work the cameras. I got to understand the full filming process, and how to work with people better."
- Azucena Chavez, 12

"I knew this program would widen my horizons. I gained some new friends and experience with cameras, and the process of how film works."
- Madeline Olson, 11

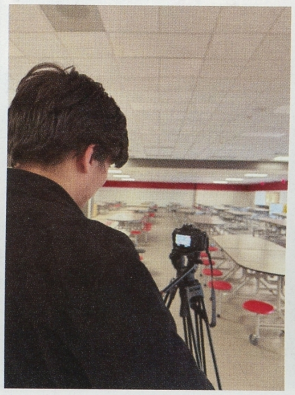
the basics OF FILM

Fresh Films is a program that takes teenagers who are interested in film, and puts them behind the camera. They learn skills and ideas the would be normally used on an actual film set. They make story boards, shot lists, and a script. They run cameras, lights, audio, and a slate.

The Fresh Films Crew just made a music video this past January for former Blue Clues actor, Steve Burns. Brayden Kirzeder, one of the directors said, "I never thought storyboarding for a music video would be so difficult." That's why Yezabelle Moore and Quinn Feigley helped develop the script. "Making a script is bouncing ideas off each other, and coming up with ideas on the fly," said Quinn. Once they started filming, it was a lot of, "Setting up b-roll shots and directing people, and trying to give them instructions," Brayden stated. After everything was finally edited and ready for show, Brayden said, "One of my favorite things on set is the familiarity and laughter on set with everyone." Join the Crew! Meet new friends, and gain film experience.

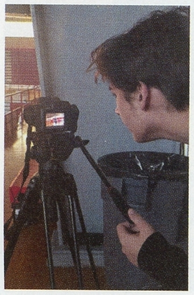
JOIN THE CREW

FreshFilms



meet the DIRECTORS

"Being a director is pretty stressful, but it can be fun at the same time. You get the experience, and you always find a way to make things work!"
- Yezabelle Moore, 10



"It's a bit stressful, but it's okay once you learn to get comfortable with telling people what to do."
- Brayden Kirzeder, 12

Dear Fresh Films,

"I was fairly new, and we had a small group, but everyone was so friendly, and that always opens the door to having a fun time. Fresh Films has given me perspective on how the filming process works, and how tedious it can be, sometimes."

THE WEIGHT OF BLOOD

Sincerely,

Madeline Olson

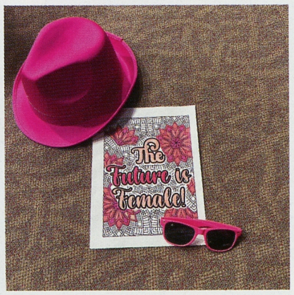
"I joined Rocky Riveters because I wanted to get involved within new clubs and groups to help them extend their voices. My favorite part is hearing different people's matters, voices, issues, and finding ways to help them work things out within the group."
- Jermiah Evans, 9

"I joined the Riveters because it was a chance to better the community and empower the women of our community! My favorite part is knowing that what I do positively impacts my fellow students. It makes me happy seeing others enjoying the activities we put together!"
- Alaina Bonja, 10

"My favorite part has to be putting on events and seeing everyone come and support!"
- Avery Hanson, 11
(Vice President)

"My favorite part of Riveters is planning our monthly events, and seeing the outcome of them!"
Gracelynn Veys, 11
(President)

Spread Love!



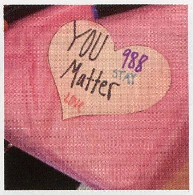
Rocky Riveters ♀

The Rocky Riveters is a female empowerment club here at Rocky that welcomes anyone to join! For the last two years, Mrs. Churchill has been the co-sponsor for the Riveters.

This year, the Riveters have really put effort in to help and support others by putting on more events and activities for the student body. "I have always been drawn to the club's message of female empowerment and ensuring members of the community's equal rights are recognized and safe," explained President Gracelynn Veys. "Women's rights and female empowerment has always been something really important to me. That's why I joined Riveters. I like being able to help support others in the community," explained Vice President, Avery Hanson.

Mrs. Churchill

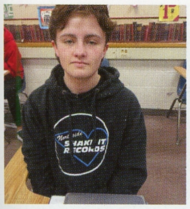
Mrs. Churchill stepped into Riveters in 2023, and has led the club ever since. "I have always been a strong advocate for female empowerment and women's rights, and so, when I started at Rocky, I was immediately drawn to the group. There are so many women who have done amazing things in the world, both in the past and present, and I think that it's important for our future generations of young adults to learn and celebrate them," stated Churchill. She has been a wonderful leader for the club, and has helped to plan the Riveters' events for the 2024-2025 school year!



Dear Rocky Riveters,

"This club has provided a safe space for me to be able to share ideas and discuss things with other group members."

Sincerely,
Millie Gidaszewski



"It gives us lots of useful skills for just learning how to research, and learning how to interact with other people."
- Ethan Ignatius, 11

"I enjoy that I'm able to learn how to write a case and organize my time well. I also enjoy the community of people that want to learn about the real world, and how to argue and articulate their thoughts."
- Millie Gidaszewski, 11

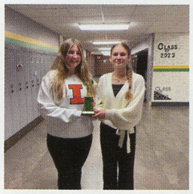
HOW GREAT IS debate?

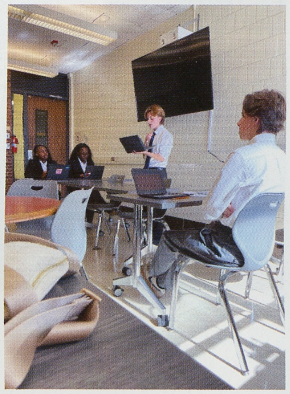
AWAIT THE debate

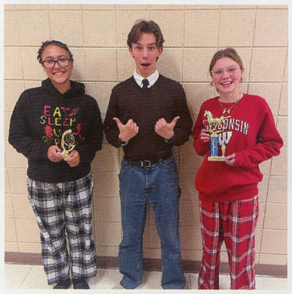
The students of the Debate Team at Rock Island High School work diligently every day to win a debate championship with the help of Mr. Jeff Duster, a teacher, who during school hours teaches history, and after school, is in charge of the Debate Team. Duster helps organize and construct his students' arguments, as well as tactics to create a proper argument.

Duster believes that Debate is, "Great for your perspective on life, and looks great on a college application." Duster even uses debate strategies in the classroom as a way to strengthen and broaden his students' research and writing skills, allowing them to work efficiently, and gain knowledge in a new perspective.

The topics of the Debate Team vary, and touch upon many subjects, like domestic politics and international affairs. They have "won several medals and trophies this year for speaking points and finishing in the top five in our divisions at tournaments," Duster explained. Overall, the group is a great approach and perspective to learn and engage in meaningful conversations, and views of those around the community, and discusses important topics and issues.







Dear Debate Team,

"Being a part of this team has taught me a lot of things this year. It made me more aware of the things going on around me, politics, and has made me a lot more open minded going into things."

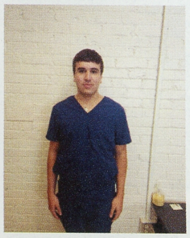
Sincerely,
Eden Lovelady

STUDENTS

in the scrubs

"I like the clinic parts and working with other people. I planned on being a nurse when I'm older. My goal for this class is to get my CNA certificate."
- Ashley Simmons, 11

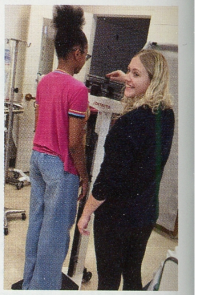
"I like learning new skills, meeting new people, and how this class opens me up to a new set of knowledge. I think I'll be a nurse after high school, staying local for college. At times, CNA/ Nursing can be a challenging class. If you pay attention and stay on task, it's easy."
- Aubrey Massie, 11

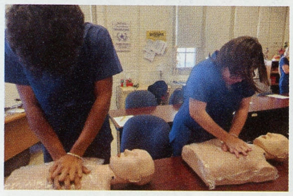


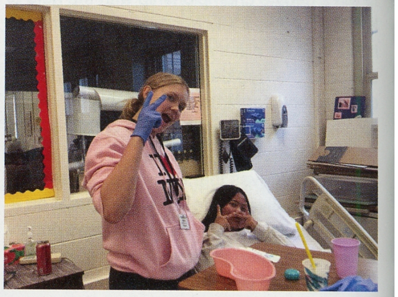
"My favorite part is the skill lab part of the class. My plan is to be a CNA for a while, going to medical school, and working my way higher in the medical field."
- Lincoln Perez, 11

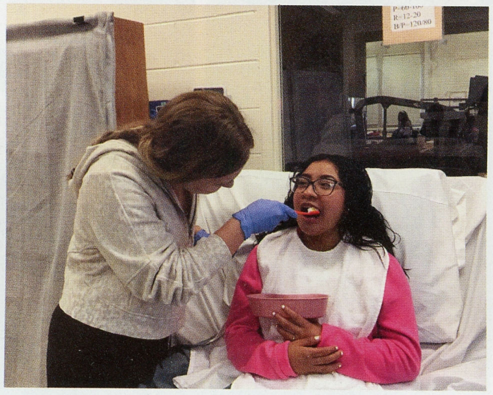
"I have spent my time, so far, learning a variety of new things, and I get to know new people. This class will always be challenging, in everything, but you can always overcome them if you put your mind to it. Once I'm done with high school, I want to be a radiology technician, or I want to possibly become a travel nurse. For college, want to go to UIC to study radiology."
- Charisma Pulliam, 11

ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL FIELDHOUSE









Dear CNA,

"The best part of being in the CNA Program is learning the skills and characteristics of being a great CNA. You also meet and create bonds with residents, which is a great opportunity. Having this class impacted me socially because I used to have trouble being social, so this class impacted me a lot in that subject."

Sincerely,
Jaleeyah McNeal

MORE THAN

just teaching

"My favorite part of this class is helping move the students forward into the medical field. I have only taught CNA classes, and I'm a nurse, too, so life is really busy right now. Some challenges are when students go into a nursing home, they don't have the confidence to take care of the residents. Sixteen students can be in my class, but most students go to into a medical field after high school. We do some field trips to the hospital for Black Hawk because this is a Black Hawk training program."
- Mrs. Susan Lanning

STUDYING

to be a CNA

Rocky's CNA Program teaches students skills early on that they could later use in the medical field, along with allowing them the opportunity to earn their CNA certification. It provides them with an insight into what it might be like in the medical field after high school. In class, the students repeatedly practice their skills beforehand to help build up their confidence when they have to practice on real patients. "We try really hard to get students as prepared as possible for when they have to go and practice on real patients," explained Mrs. Lanning, the CNA instructor.

The students don't just stay in the classroom all day long. "They go on various field trips to local colleges and hospitals for additional training and experience," said Lanning. Apart from nursing and CNA work, the students also have academic requirements they have to keep up. To be in a CNA class, students must maintain a 2.5 GPA, and have no more than 10 absences. However the class isn't all about work, as there is a rewarding emotional side to it, as well. "Memorable moments are during clinical rotation, seeing the students help with patients and getting them to smile, laugh or light up, and express gratitude," explained Lanning. All in all, this class not only provides students with an insight into the medical field, but it also provides students with a rewarding experience while in high school.

STUDENTS

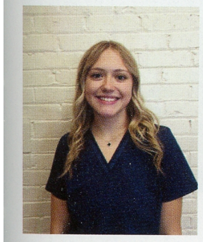
in the scrubs

"I like to work with people. I want to become a registered nurse. I would like to take two years of college, but I have not thought of any college yet. I don't think CNA is a challenging class, but it's still hard to clean people and take care of people."
- Beauiful Wah, 11

"My favorite part is the people, and having fun with a career that will help in the future. My plan after high school is to be a CNA, but I'm pushing towards being a travel nurse. I thought of going to the UIC. I think CNA class is a challenging class, and if you do pay attention, you will be fine, and on top of things."
- Blessing Jabbah, 11

"My favorite part of class is the people and the medical stuff. My plan is to be a registered nurse for awhile. I thought of going to Black Hawk, Simpson College, and Brown University. This class is hard, but easy, if you pay attention and keep up with the work."
- Jada Brown, 11

"My favorite part of this class is when we do hands on activities and tests. I want to start off as a CNA, and then I want to go to school as a registered nurse. I've been looking at the University of Illinois in Chicago and Loyola University."
- Aunah Jones, 12



"I like learning new skills to develop my character and career. I want to be a nice nurse after college. I plan on attending Black Hawk for the first two years, and then, I want to transfer to another university after that. CNA class is definitely a challenging class, and you have to show up."
- Natalee DeVoss, 12

"Working to make my skills better and knowing what to expect is my favorite part about this class. I want to go to Bradley for nursing, but I might go to Black Hawk for my associates, and work my way up."
- September Naing, 12

"The clinical things, like practicing skills, is my favorite part. I plan on being a nurse after high school, and studying at Black Hawk. I don't feel like CNA is a challenging class, as long as you pay attention."
- Karli Barker, 12

"I like the new experience, especially all of the new things to learn. I want to be in the medical field. I don't think CNA is a challenging class, but when it gets hard, it can be challenging."
- Carla Nieto, 12

"My favorite part of this class is the hard part of the class. I want to be a nurse after high school, so this class is important."
- Gladys Perez, 12

"My favorite part of this class is learning new skills. My plan is to be a neonatal nurse after high school. I want to go the U of Iowa."
- Kiana Williams, 12

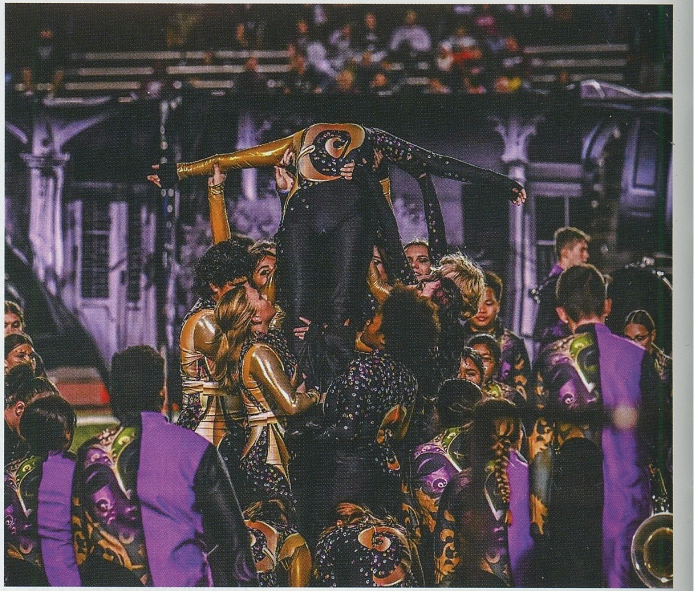
"My favorite part of this class is the skills, like learning how to take care of people. My plan is to work in the CNA class in the summer, but I want to be an OB after high school."
- Jaleeyah McNeal, 12

Dear Marching Band,

"Marching band has allowed me to begin to manage my time better and be good at communicating with people. I need to understand when I should practice and when I need to be at rehearsal, so that I am on time."

Sincerely,

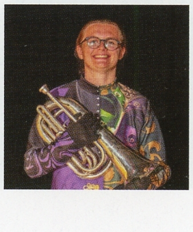
Millie Gidaszewski



"Mr. Carlin asked me last year, after our season ended if I wanted to be lead in the show that he had in mind. I thought it would be a good idea, so I agreed to be lead, immediately. It feels great being trusted with an important role."

- Joe Brooks, 12

MAKING MUSIC and memories

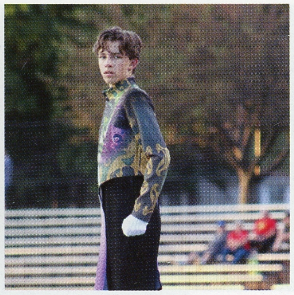


"Doing well at the Lincoln-Way Competition was great because it was a really tight competition."

- Zach Hansen, 11

"My favorite part of the season was when we made friends with band members from other schools when our buses were next to each other."

- Lauren Lambrecht, 10



IN TIME + IN CHARGE

Drum Majors Layla Campbell and Myaels Hoffeditz lead the band by conducting the music and providing the tempo for the musicians to follow. "My favorite part about being a Drum Major is getting to be in a leadership position," Campbell shared.

BEHIND the mask

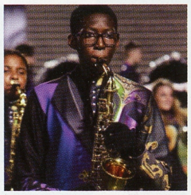
The 2024 version of The Pride of Rock Island Marching Band presented their show, "Vieux Malfait", featuring selections from "House of the Rising Sun" by The Animals, "I Put a Spell on You" by Jay Hawkins, and "Bury a Friend" by Billie Eilish. Set in a New Orleans jazz club after dark, Vieux Malfait, based off of the Cajun myth "Pere Malfait", lures those who enter into a trance. "This year's show represents the idea of getting lost in the darkness of the world, and the dangers that come from it," shared Director Pete Carlin. Assistant Directors Michael Tollenaer and Derek Ross shared, "The show concept this year was one of our strongest ever."

The band did face challenges this year, however. "The hardest part of our show this year is that it went well beyond just playing and marching," said Ross and Tollenaer. "Nearly everyone in the band had a character that they had to play." Senior Joe Brooks led the show as Pere Malfait, in which he interacted with the band and color guard throughout the entire performance, up until the final moments, where his spell is cast. Other featured musicians include seniors Harrison Kelley, Jose Salinas, and Zoe Ehlers. Salinas shared what moments he will cherish from this season, stating, "Learning the marching show, and spending all this time with friends." However, toward the end of the season, Salinas stated, "Going to competitions and getting record high scores," as a highlight.

This year, the band attended many competitions and took home Best Percussion titles at the Morton and Lincoln-Way Marching Invitationals, as well as the Best Visuals Award at the Lincoln-Way Marching Invitational. As the season wrapped up, they traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for the highly prestigious Bands of America Competition, in which they competed against some of the best bands in the country. The Pride of Rock Island scored a 72.8, which broke the record of the highest score they have ever received at a Bands of America Super Regional, leading to a top ten finish in their class of 30 bands.

*Photo Credit to Josh Parr and Play in the Sunshine Photo

traditions AND team bonding



"The saxophones have the handshake. We do it before every game."

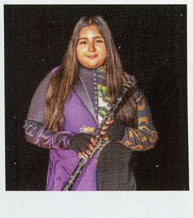
- Youssif Doukoure, 11

"The second Tuesday of band camp, front line gets bagels."

- Adrian Mills, 11

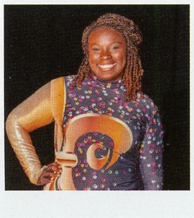
"Before the football games, the Color Guard is all huddled up, and we do the 'Rocktown' chant."

- Sandy Htay, 10



"My favorite memory from this season was making our directors proud of our show and our efforts."

- Lirely Mendoza, 10



"My favorite memory was seeing the show turn from a vision to a reality."

- A'Keyla Brown, 12

"My favorite memory of the season is going to Bands of America in Indianapolis and seeing all the cool bands playing."

- Christ Soe, 10

OUR FAVORITE PART of band

"My favorite part of being in Symphonic Band is being able to play fun music!"
- Millie Gidaszewski

"My favorite part of band is being able to perform and make music with such a talented group of people. It's so fun going to competitions, and putting a show on for our audience!"
- Zaynah Hassan

"I'm in Symphonic Band, and my favorite part of band this year would have to be playing at the basketball games because I get to hang out with m friends."
- Easter Naing

THE LOVE FOR band

Band is a place for students to express their love for music. It's a place where they learn about music and its value. Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band have their own characteristics. Jazz Band is very different from Concert and Symphonic Band because it has different styles of music. While Concert Band and Symphonic Band are just different levels of band, Symphonic Band is a higher level, and the top band in the school.

Mr. Pete Carlin is the band director, who has been working with students for a long time, and shared his experiences with this year's group, stating, "The most important aspect in band is working toward performing the music as best as we can, and creating a performance the audience and students will enjoy."

In order to achieve a successful concert, there are many challenges the students faced during rehearsals. Carlin said that, "The biggest challenges are the ones put in front of them, and through practice, asking questions, and working together, they can get better. It's about finding the patterns and repeated portions of the music." Determining the music for a concert is one of the challenges Mr. Carlin faces, so he has his own criteria for that process. "I try to chose music that fits the band's personality, talent level, and be music that will push them, hopefully, to become better musicians," he said.

Between the 3 bands this year, the students and Mr. Carlin have a lot to be proud of. "So far, this year, my favorite memories are working with the students, and seeing them enjoy the music more and more," stated Carlin.

"I like the creativity that Jazz Band brings with improvisation. To be able to express my ideas through music makes me feel good. Jazz is my favorite genre of music."

- Chase Coussens

Dear Jazz Band,

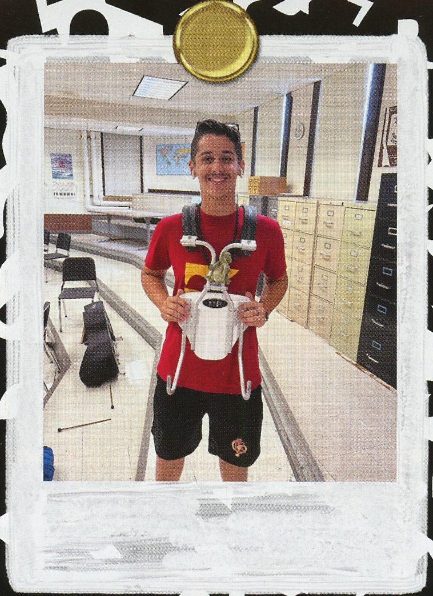
"Thank you for allowing me to express my creativity through music on the vibraphone, improvising within different cords and styles. Thank you for letting me play at ILMEA District Concert last fall, and meeting lots of different people, who enjoy what I love."

Sincerely,
Tyler Whitten

"I am in Concert Band. My favorite part about being in band is spending time with friends."
- Christianne Hare

"I'm in Concert Band. My favorite part of being in band is getting to learn more about music, and how it is developed."

- Alonna Lemke



"It's the feeling of accomplishment in all the things I've done while part of this place. The commitment in making Rocky's name better."
– Lucas McCall

"Rocky Pride means showing support in your school in any way you can, whether that's wearing Rocky merch, walking around in red and gold, going to games, meets, and events, and simply being involved in showing love for your school."
-LaRayah Carroll

"Showing respect for our school will impact students. Be proud of the school and everyone in it."
- Delilah Stiles

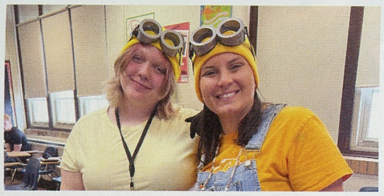
our TIME @ THE ROCK

Being a student at Rocky means showing support, pride, and determination in whatever you do. Being confident in yourself and your school is really important, too. We show Rocky pride through wearing red and gold, dressing up for themes for games while cheering people on, making new friends, and most importantly, doing our best, even when times are tough, so when we look back, we can remember and be a proud Rocky alumni.

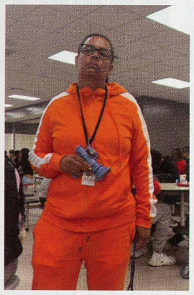
"Rocky Pride means getting involved in either a sport or club. Showing support to others, doing your best always, and being positive, even when times are tough, and most importantly, being proud of the school and yourself."
-Avery Hanson

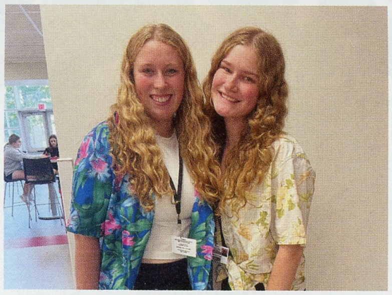
"Rocky Pride has meant a lot to me. This is the only thing I know, and I will always embrace it after high school."
-Andrea Garcia

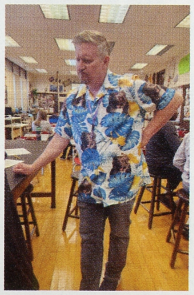
"I feel good being included in the school, and saying I'm from Rocky. Rocky might get a bad rep, but being involved with activities can really show you how good the sense of community and friendship really is."
- Reagan Hawotte



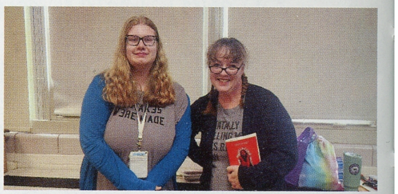
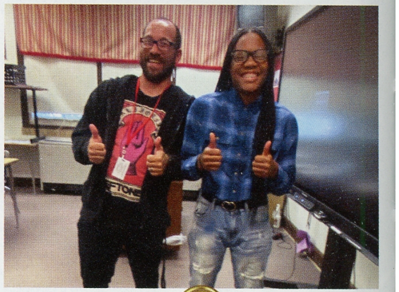
Minion DAY



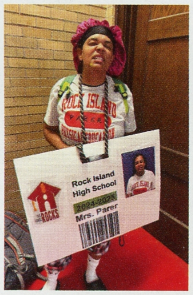
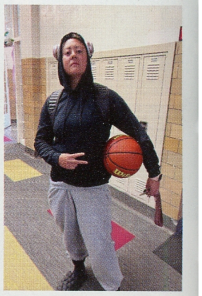
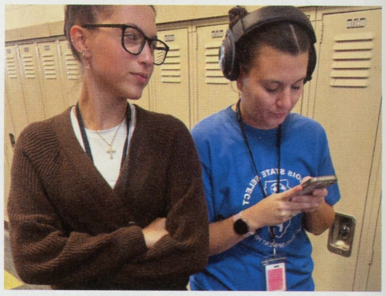




TACKY TOURIST

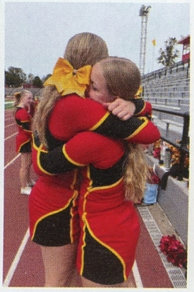
Teachers vs Students

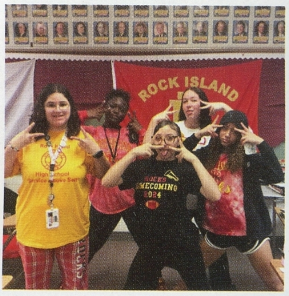

Rock Island High School
Mrs. Paren



rock island homecoming
SPIRIT WEEK

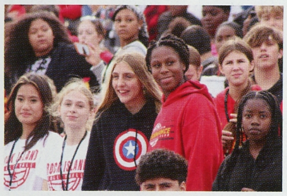
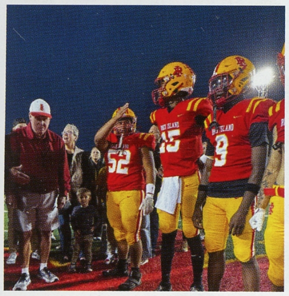
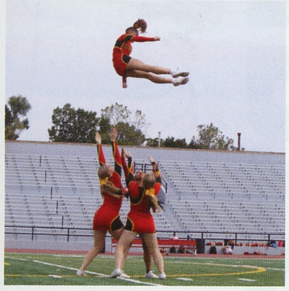
CLASS COLOR
CLASS COLOR
CLASS COLOR
CLASS COLOR
CLASS COLOR

RED and GOLD

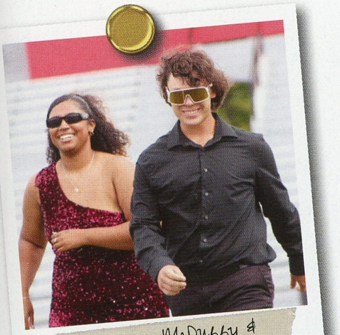



ROCK ISLAND

FIGHT ON,
Rock Island

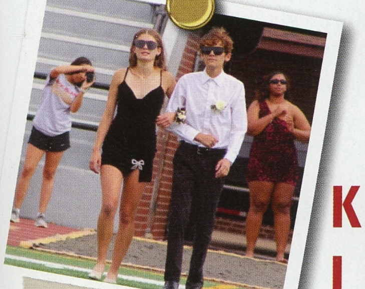




HOMECOMING *court*



Kamya McDuffy & Alex Churchill

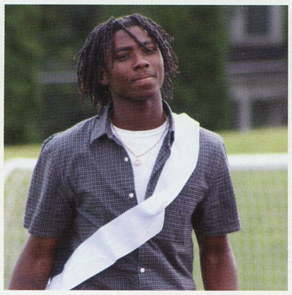
Cendrine Bukeneza & Myles Davis

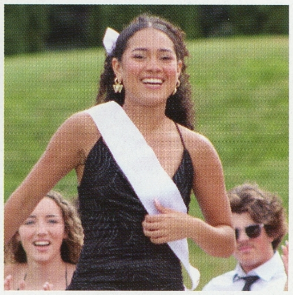


Kylie Melchi & Thom Elliott

Elizabeth McCoy & Jae'Vion Clark-Pugh

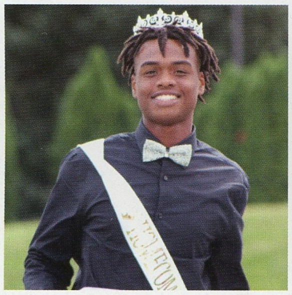
KING

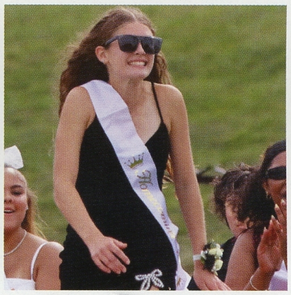




QUEEN

PRINCE





PRINCESS

Maliyah McVay & Special Guest Courtney Lindsey

A'rion Lonergan & Chase Curry

LaNina Daugherty & Elijah Venegas

Keziah Anderson & V'Jay Garrard

Mia Hixson & Carson Banks

Maddie Carroll & Morris Nunn

good

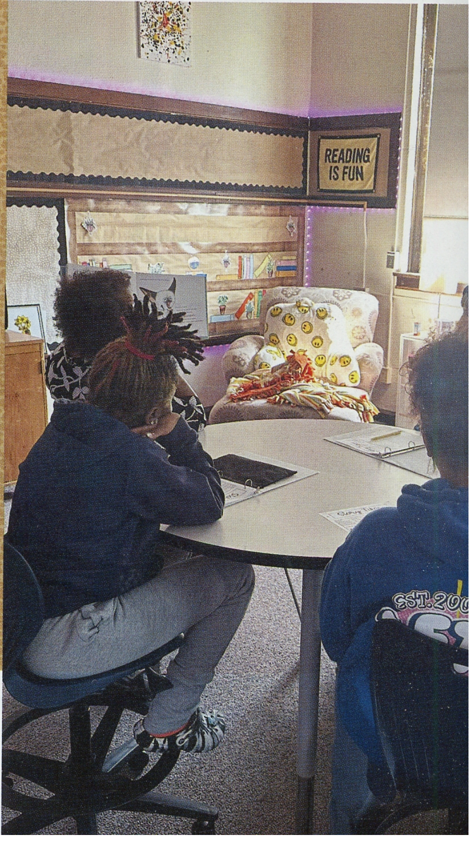
tiMES

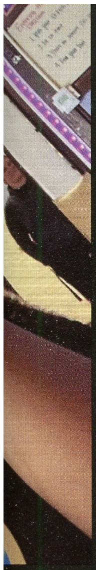
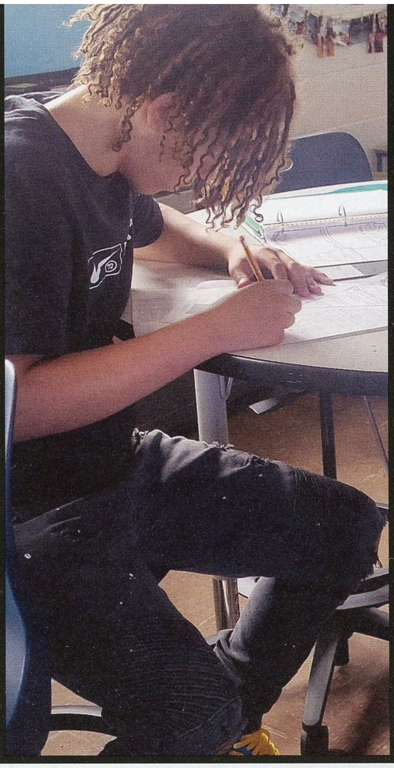
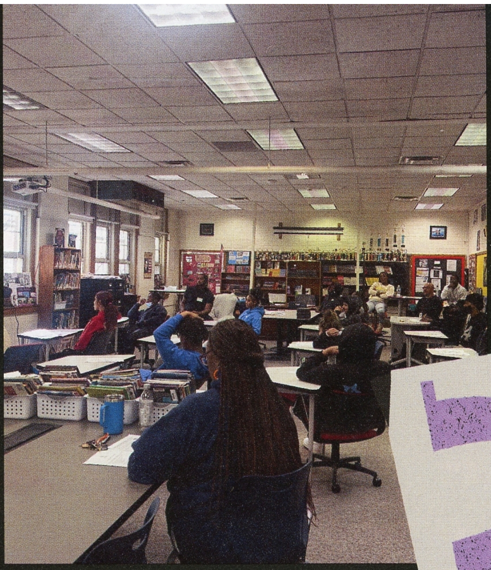
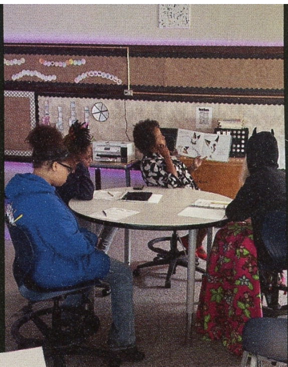
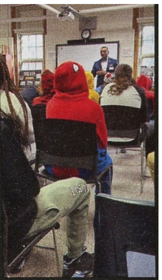
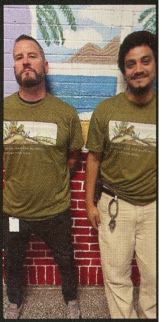
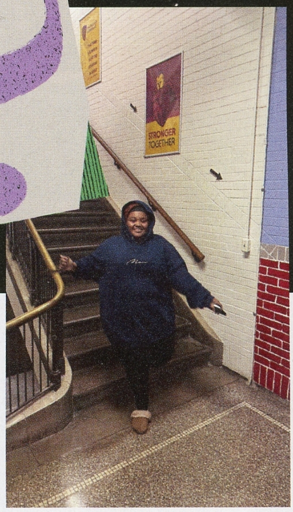
at Thurgood Marshall

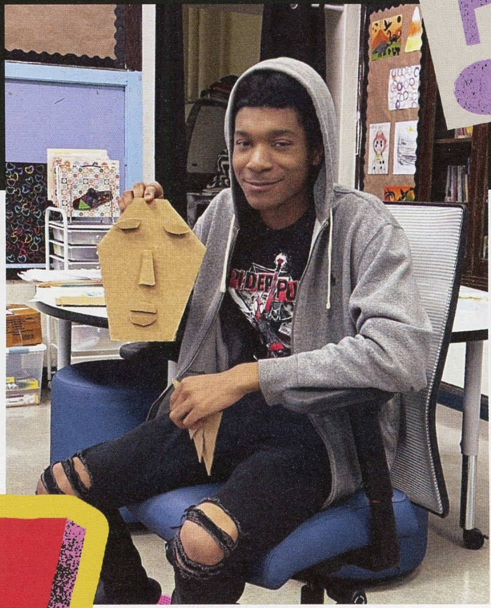
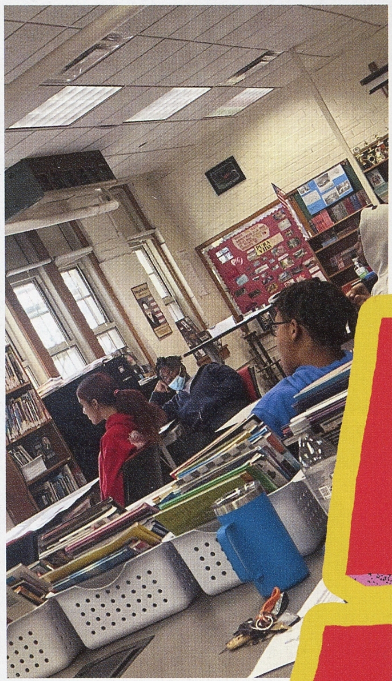
"Believe in yourself, even if you feel like nobody believes in you."
- Brianna LaFrancois

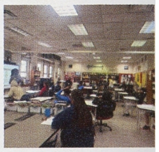
"What I like most about being a TMLC student is that I am able to communicate and express matters effectively, and that my words are heard."
- Nora Clark

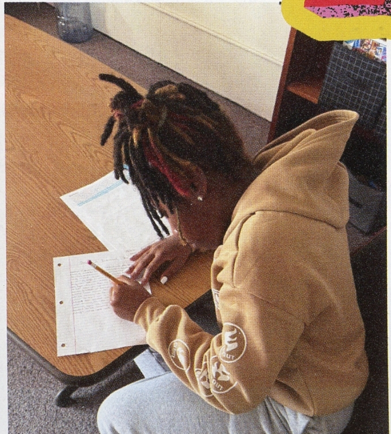
"I want my students to regularly experience personal, social, and intellectual success!"
- Janice Gbenyo



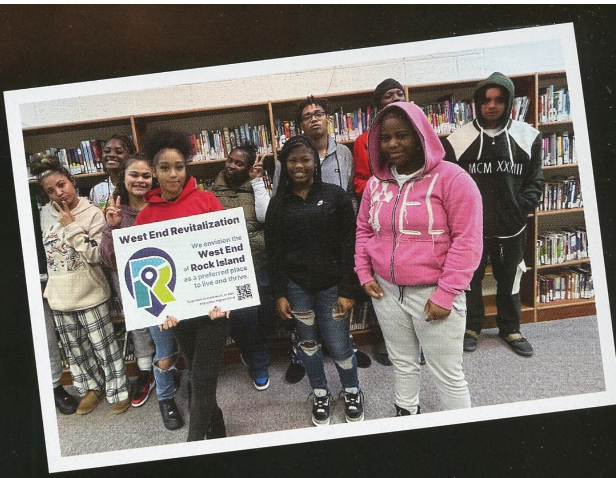







STRONGER TOGETHER

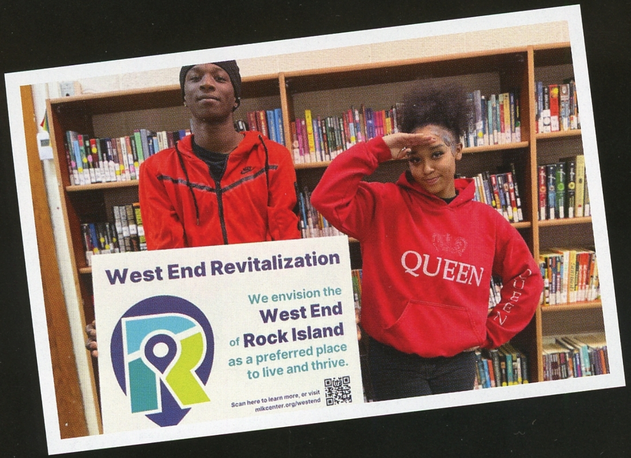




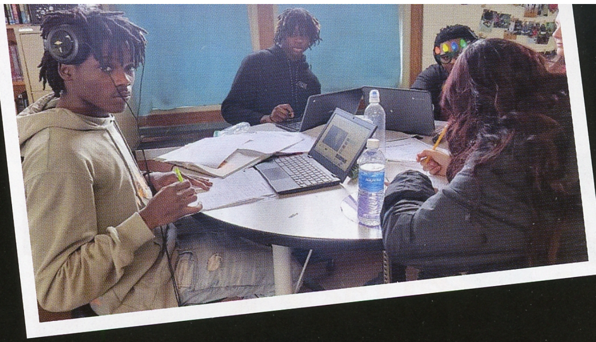
Students will be able to...
Smoke


West End Revitalization
We envision the
West End
of Rock Island
as a preferred place
to live and thrive.

AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

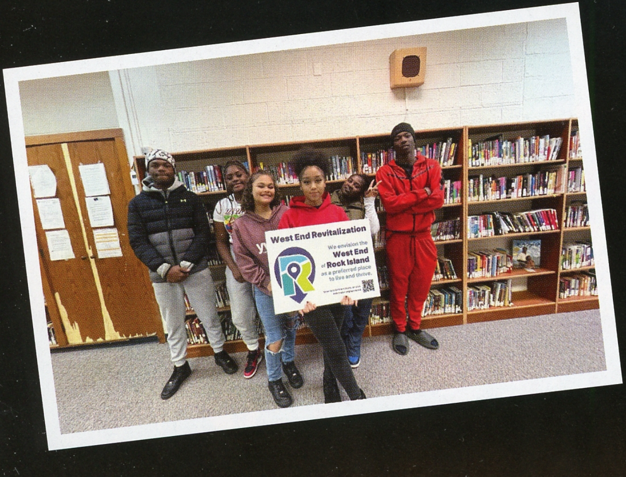

West End Revitalization
We envision the
West End
of Rock Island
as a preferred place
to live and thrive.
Scan here to learn more, or visit
mlkcenter.org/westend
QUEEN

READ



THIS IS TMLC

West End Revitalization
We envision the
West End


West End Revitalization
We envision the
West End
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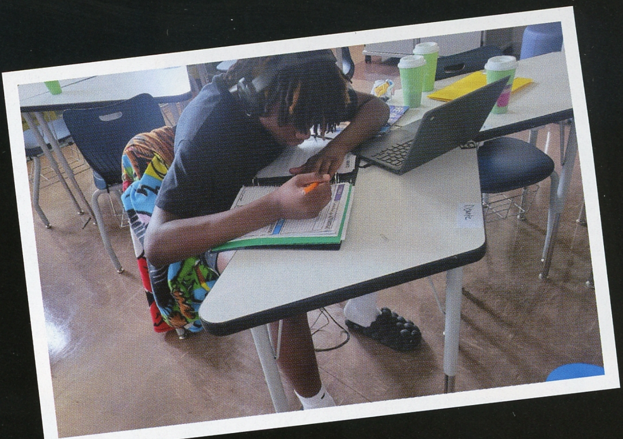
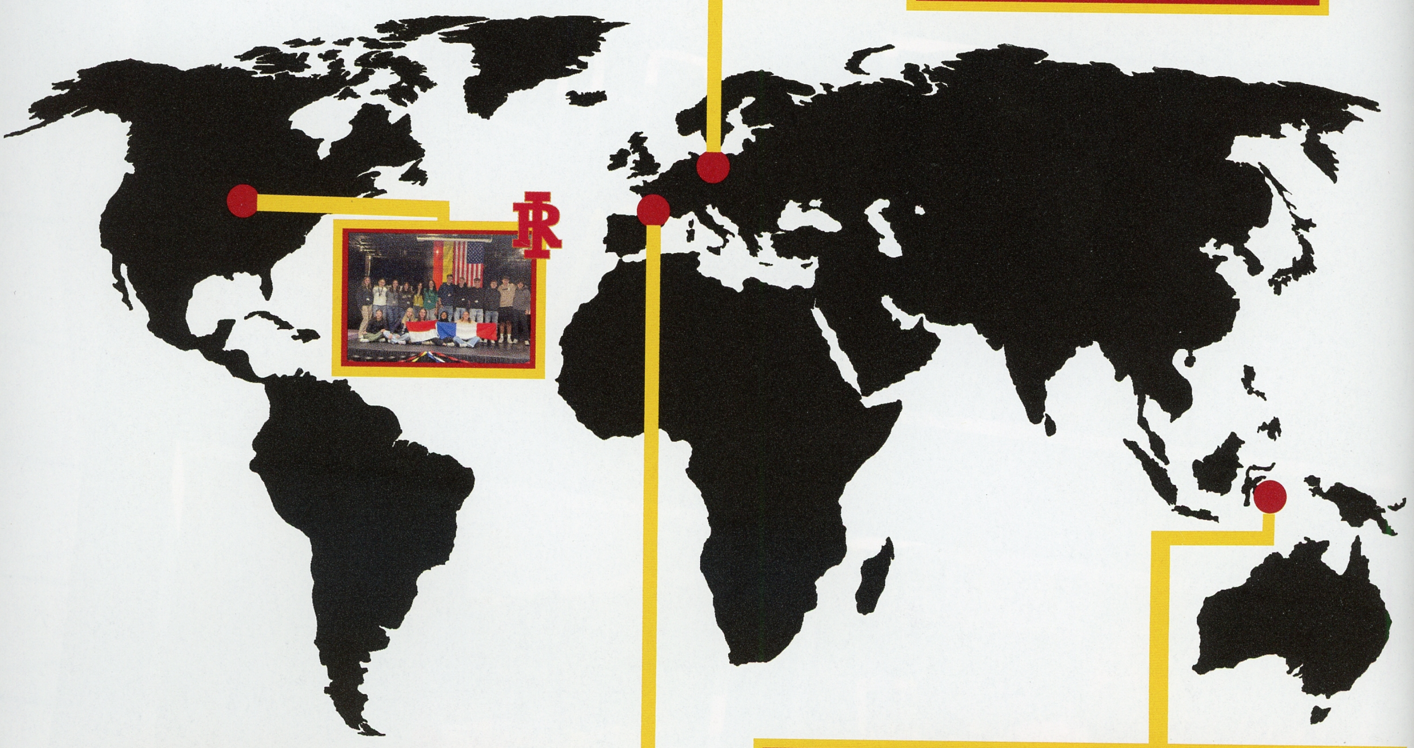
to live and thrive.



EXCHANGING
cultures

GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE

The German Students who participated in the exchange to RIHS include: Lea Breitmaier, Anais Schulze, Isabel Deptalla, Sophia Pannewitz, Blanca Soler, Elena Herr, Celine Baur, Carmen Suck, Maximilian Greulich, Moritz Kreutmayr, Lukas Muessigmann, Linus Koekert, Anouk Klaseen-Van Husen, Jakob Offenhaeuser, Clemens Mueller

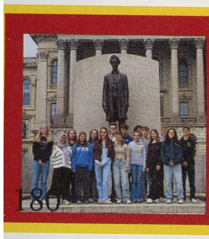


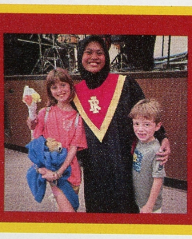
FRANCE: CHLOE BOURRON

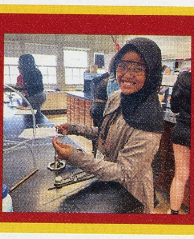
"Hi, my name is Chloe, and I am an exchange student from France. I am very happy with my days in America. For me, not many things are different from France. But, I just found out that in school in America, each class has different classmates when we move to the next period, and also, sports classes every day. For me, the most difficult thing during the exchange program was the communication in English, because I have a little difficulty in speaking English, especially when someone speaks very fast. But, I really like Rocky, as we do a lot of things here. The most fun thing, for me, is the Cross Country Team. We have a lot of fun during training and also during our competitions."

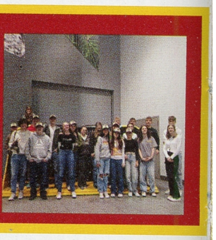
INDONESIA : AQILAH SAPUTRI

"Hi, I am Aqilah, and I'm an exchange student from Indonesia. The reason I want to be an exchange student is because I want to experience new things that exist in other parts of the world, and my one year of being an exchange student has taught me many things. In America, I gained a lot of new experiences, especially about school. Here, we had to switch classes for different lessons, but in Indonesia, we were in the same class, without having to switch. The experience I remember most at Rocky was all the exciting events there that I never experienced in Indonesia, such as soccer matches and Homecoming. The most challenging part was communicating in full English. It made it difficult at first, but now, my communication in English is getting better. Being an exchange student was the best experience for me. I learned many things, and met many new people, who also taught me lots, and had a positive impact from the differences that exist."









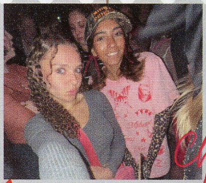
Sensational Shows

Olivia Rodrigo

Audrey Long, 11
Jenna Kitterman, 11
Guts World Tour- Kansas City, MO

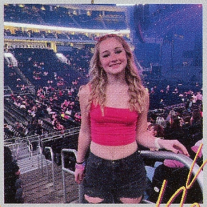
Taylor Swift

Isaac Perez, 11
The Eras Tour- Indianapolis, IN



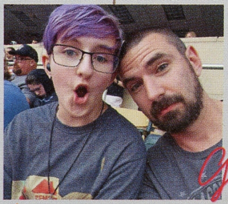
Chappell Roan

Teegan Conwell, 11
Francesca Guyette, 11
The Midwest Princess Tour-
Council Bluffs, IA



Nicki Minaj

Katie Voss, 11
Pink Friday 2 World Tour-
Milwaukee, WI

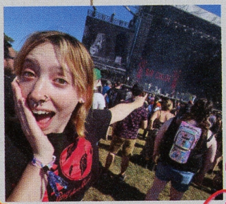


Green Day

Madz Hendrickx, 10
The Saviors Tour-
Minneapolis, MN

Drake

Adalynn Conwell, 9
It's All a Blur Tour-
Kansas City, MO



Sir Chloe

Brody Lenger, 12
Riot Fest-
Chicago,IL

Sevendust

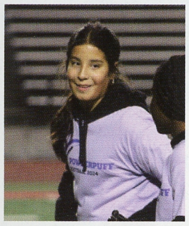
Alaina Bonja, 12

The Rust Belt-
Moline, IL

powderpuff FOOTBALL

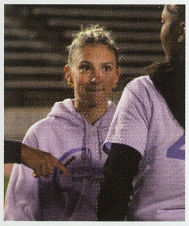
"It was fun to be competitive against my friends, and bond with my class in a different way."

- Kampbell Allen



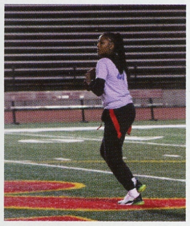
"My favorite part of Powderpuff was having fun with my friends, while also competing against my senior friends."

- Isaac Perez



"My favorite part was celebrating our touchdowns with my team, and scoring both of the two point conversions."

- Izzy Spurgetis

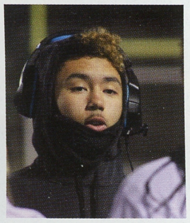


"My favorite part was getting touchdowns, and also taking pictures afterwards and creating memories."

- Ka'Zaria Bell

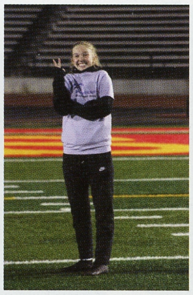
"Playing with and against my friends was my favorite part about playing Powderpuff."

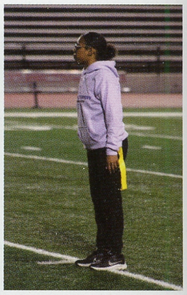
- AJ Stewart

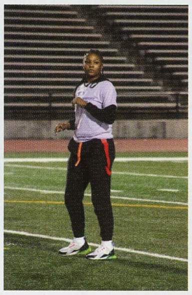


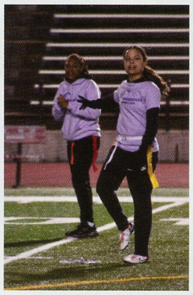
"My favorite part about coaching the Powderpuff Team was making plays for them to do, and them actually executing the plays."

- Avian Thomas

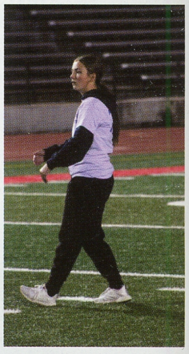


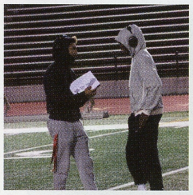


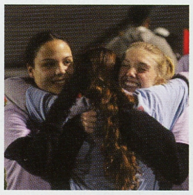


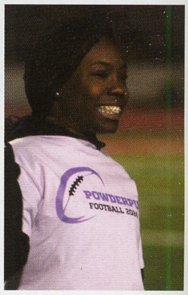


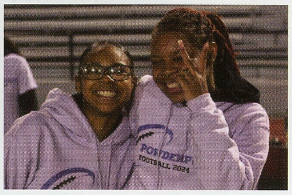
POWDERPUFF
FOOTBALL 2024



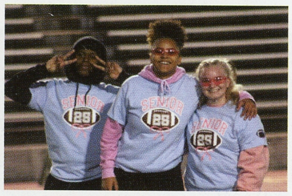


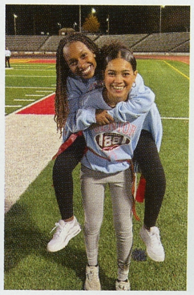






junior vs senior 2024



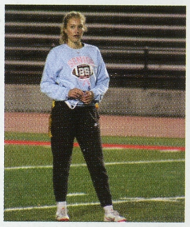


"My favorite part was getting to celebrate with my best friends after we scored, and having 2 touchdowns."

- Jozie Kerr

"My favorite part was celebrating with my team after scoring a touchdown."

- Olivia Samuelson

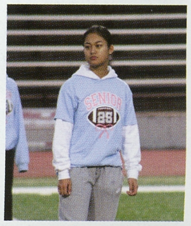


"My favorite part was playing with friends, and beating the juniors."

- Gladys Perez

"My favorite part of Powderpuff was winning a second time in a row with the same team from last year."

- September Naing

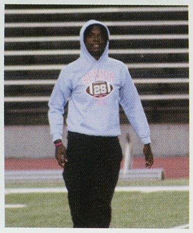


"My favorite part of Powderpuff would have to be the celebrations after accomplishing a good pass or play with my team."

- Nina Daugherty

"My favorite part about coaching the seniors was seeing the joy on everyone's faces, and seeing everyone have fun together."

- Myles Davis

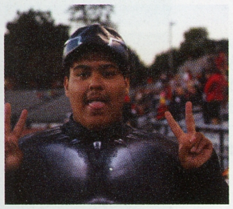


"My favorite thing about cheering Rocky on is dressing up for the theme or using the microphone."
- Madison Carroll

"My favorite part is looking up into the crowd from the track, and seeing all the students, of all different ages, cheering together."
- Elizabeth McCoy

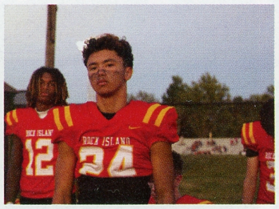
FANS IN

Fans in



"The best thing about cheering for Rocky in the student section is all of the love and support. It doesn't matter what problems we have with who, when we are there, we are united. We are showing so much support for our team and our school, spreading so much love. These will be memories for life."
- Morris Nunn

"Cheering on Rocky in the student section makes me feel like I left my mark on Rock Island High School, and something an alumni would've wanted for our school, so in a way, I feel like I'm passing the torch of Rock Island Pride."
- A'rion Lonergan-Shinskia



"My favorite part about cheering for my peers at games is just seeing them succeed in what they dedicate their time to, and seeing it pay off with a win makes it even better. Also, everyone else in the student section makes it more fun to cheer with."
- Avian Thomas

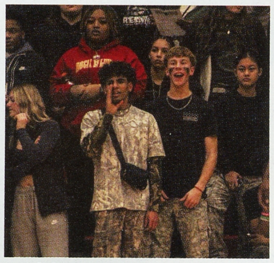
"The best thing about being in the student section is getting to dress up with all my friends in fun costumes and outfits, and getting to be in the front of the student section, cheering for our friends who play."
- Jozie Kerr

"It's fun to be in the student section because it allows me to be more social with my classmates."
- Amaiah Robinson

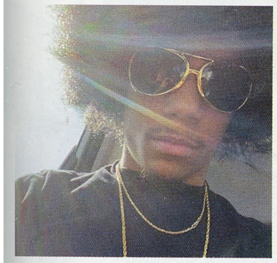
"I think the best thing about student sections at basketball games is how we can match the energy of the players with our chants."
- Hussein Alhamdan

"My favorite part of the RIHS student section is sitting in the front row with my friends, having an all around good time, and being on the news."
- Gage Painter

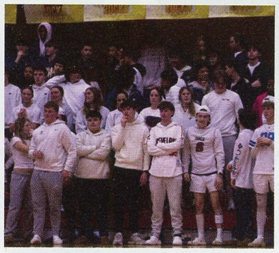
"I like dressing up to the themes, and cheering along with the cheerleaders when they do interactive cheers is enjoyable. The band adds a special touch to the games. I love our little rivalries with other schools, and our cheer competitions with other student sections."
- September Naing



"I think being in the stands during basketball games is a lot of fun. The chants in the student section, and the energy from the crowd makes it an enjoyable event to attend. It's always great to see my classmates and friends playing hard, and cheering them on!"
- Kamya McDuffy



"My favorite part of going to the wrestling meets is having all the lights being off, and only having a spot light on that makes you feel like you are in the match with them."
- Santana Smith



"My favorite part of being in the stands at games is watching them win!"
- V'Jay Garrard

THE STANDS
the stands

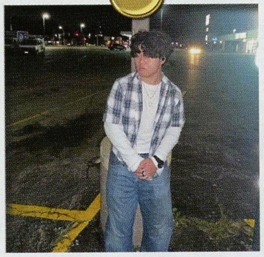
Signature STYLE

sparkle & shine

"I've loved makeup ever since I was six years old. I love doing makeup on other people, and making them feel beautiful. I've always thought makeup was my passion in life."
- Riley Gray, 12

"This makeup look is my best, and my go to picture."
- Vianca Tuominen Pawlik, 11

"I enjoy doing makeup because it's a form of self expression. It's an art form, and when I can wear it and show it off, it's my favorite."
- Keni Bennett, 11

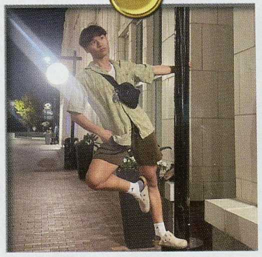


Shee Ler Moo, 11

"My style is mainly 2000's Hip-Hop. What inspires me is my dad. He used to wear clothes like I do."

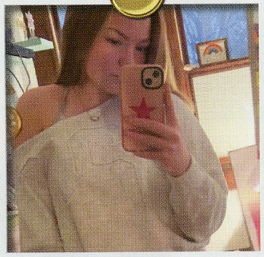
Adalynn Conwell, 9

"I always like baggier clothes, and make sure the colors of my clothes complement each other well. I also like to pick them based on my hair style that day."



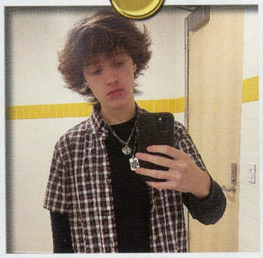
Christ Soe, 10

"This is my favorite outfit because it's comfortable, and I love the colors. I get the inspiration from Pinterest."



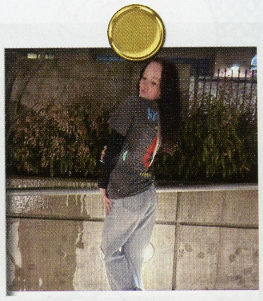
Jenna Kitterman, 11

"I like to wear comfortable clothes that are simple and cute!"



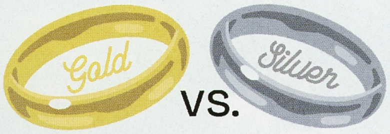
Birdie Johnson, 12

"I would describe my style as a mix of thrift swag and 2000's."



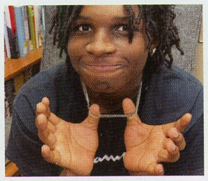
Whitney Stivers, 12

"I love my baggy jeans and a concert shirt. My style is pretty simple- whatever I find comfortable and cute!"



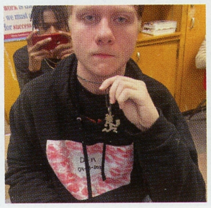
vs.

"I like silver because it shines."
- Kylan Mitchell, 11

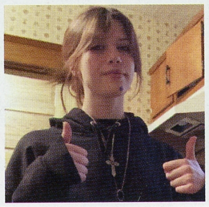


"I like silver jewelry because I feel like it fits me better than gold, and it goes with everything."
- Alexa Massie, 11

"I like gold because it matches with everything."
- Aubrey Massie, 11



"I like silver because it's more reflective, and it shines more."
- Damian Lessard, 12



"I wear both silver and gold, but I wear silver more often."
- Gio DiGiacomo-Milburn, 10

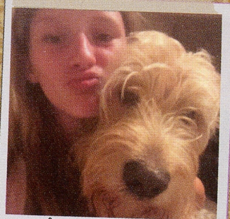
show me your

SHOE GAME

Andrew Oliver &
Stella

Christen Egan & Maya

Elijah Clark &
Poppy


Brooklynn Ericson &
Wrigley

Kalista Moran &
Ruby

Mason Fry &
GC (Golden Child)

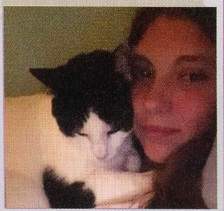
Furry

FRIENDS

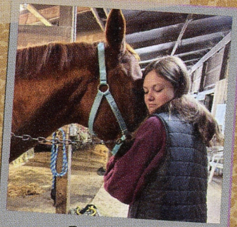
Kevin Mayares &
Luna

Jackie Davis & Rocky

Aubrey Massie &
Bailey

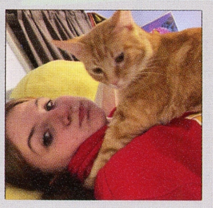

Savannah Norman &
Ham

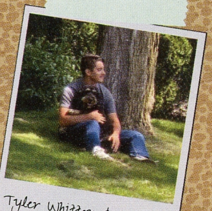
cute
cute
cute
cute
cute
Ayla Kaha &
Vision

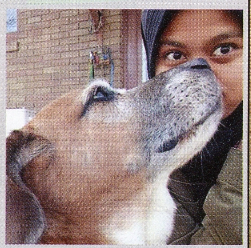

Zoe Fuller &
Liam

Kayla and Alayna Mathews &
Fuzz

Daenika Adams & Miska


Yezabelle Moore & Milo


Tyler Whitten & Murphy

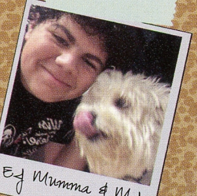

Aqilah Saputri & Charlie

Lillyan Grant &
Binx

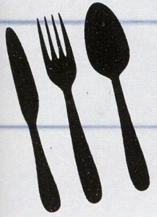
Francesca Guyette &
Collete

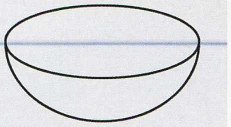
Avery Hanson &
Sir Chunks

R'Eannah Bowker & Toga

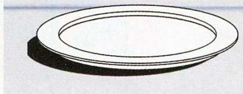

Ej Mumma & Mj

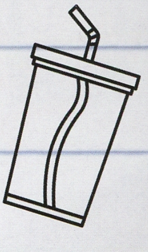
Hudson Elliott & Nyx

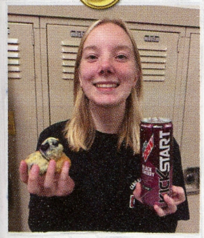




girl dinner

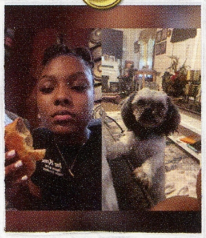






alexa massie

"My girl dinner is a muffin and an energy drink."



ka'zaria bell

"My girl dinner is a Nutella croissant with a Mountain Dew."

maya decker

"My girl dinner is Arthur's pasta."

ameena ross

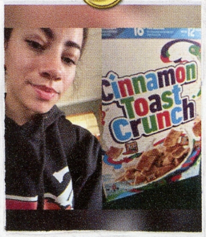
"My girl dinner is a Chipotle bowl."

pamella iliza

"My girl dinner is an energy drink and a granola bar."

allie downing

"My girl dinner is a cheeseburger Happy Meal."

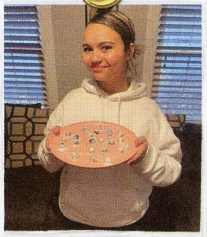


makayla curry

"My girl dinner is cereal."

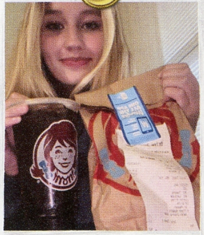
vanessa boswell

"My girl dinner is blueberry muffins."



alaysha veasey

"My girl dinner is yogurt covered blueberries."



kaitlynn bartelt

"My girl dinner is a biggie bag and Dr. Pepper."

hailey gisis

"My girl dinner is Chick-Fil-A."

lizzie shorten

"My girl dinner is an Alani with a pack of fruit snacks."

katie voss

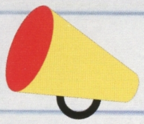
"My girl dinner is an ice block from Awake."

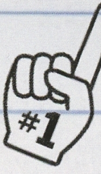
teegan conwell

"My girl dinner is a dragon drink and a spinach, feta, and egg white wrap from Starbucks."

keni bennett

"My girl dinner is chips and dip."

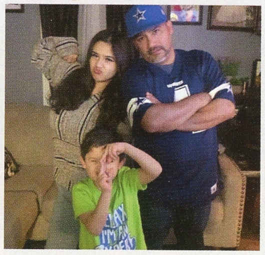




SPIRITED rocks

Kevin Mayares, 12

"My favorite pro team is the Bears because I grew up watching them."

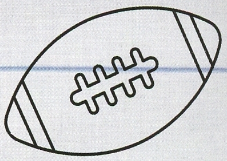


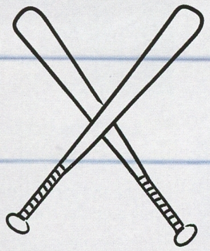
Laura Avalos, 11

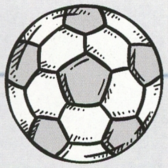
"I like the Cowboys because they allow me to spend more time with my dad, and bond over the games."

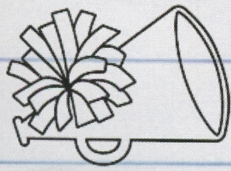
Ella Leahy, 11

"UConn because I love basketball, and watching how they play, and make it look so effortless is fun."









Lincoln Perez, 11

"I would have to say California All Stars Rangers because they are a level 7 team, and are very entertaining to watch, and it's a team I look up to."

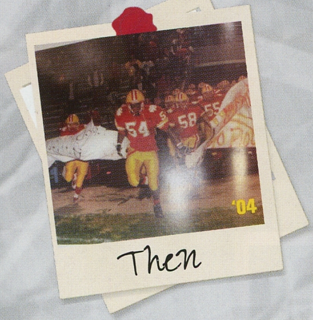
George Tate, 11

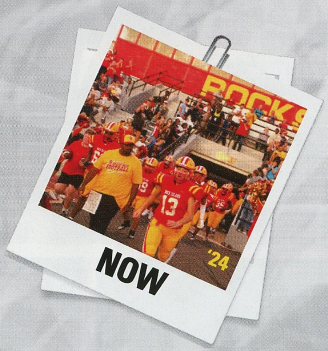
"My favorite pro sports team is the Green Bay Packers. I'm recently, just now, watching the NFL these past couple of years, and that's just been the team that's captivated me the most. I love Jordan Love, and the kind of QB he is, and I love the Packers' defense. Even though they lost to the Lions, I feel like they'll beat the Bears this week."

Allie Downing, 11

"The Cubs because it's what I grew up with, and I love Dansby Swanson."

Then & NOW



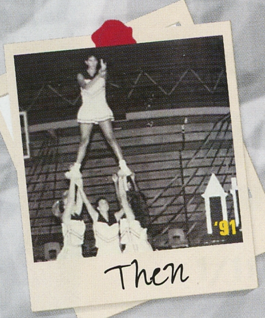


Rocky's traditional football run out is still going strong, even from 2004 to 2024.

"It feels great to continue that tradition. The tradition means a lot to the players and the fans that that come out every Friday night."
- Kevin Mayares

Rocky's Cheer Team shows their stunts from 1991 to 2024.

"I thinks it's really cool, seeing the improvement from then to now. The stunts have become much cleaner, and even the uniforms look a lot more put together."
- Francesca Guyette

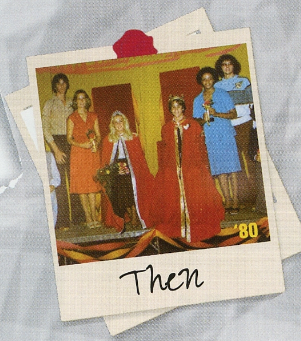


Rocky students show their Rock Island pride for Homecoming Week from 2003 to 2024.

"I like seeing how the Spirit Week traditions then have carried on to now. It's my favorite part of Homecoming Week."
- Gracelynn Veys

Rocky students get crowned after winning Homecoming Court from 1980 to 2024.

"It's was very cool seeing the traditions I saw the upperclassmen on the court participated in, and then, being able to do the same, myself, when I was on court. I remember cheering my head off in the stands during the pep rally. Then, 3 years later, being the one on the field, myself, was a wild moment."
- Ellie McCoy



Rock Island High School students perform in Drama Club from 1930 from 2024.

"I think it's super cool to see the old traditions of circle and, especially, signing out in the auditorium. I'm very excited to add my sign out, and be a part of that history this year."
- Kayla Mathews

GAMEDAY GLAMOUR

Football Themes
2024

Rocky's Student Section Shows Their
Rocky Pride During Each Game

8/23 vs. Minooka

- Beach

9/6 vs. Dunlap

- Superhero

9/13 @ Quincy

- Neon

9/20 @ Bradley-Bourbonnais

- Pajamas

9/27 vs. Moline

- Red & Gold

10/4 @ United Township

- Camo

10/11 vs. Galesburg

- Pink Out

10/18 @ Sterling

- Black Out

10/25 vs. Geneseo

- Halloween

Basketball Themes

2024 - 2025

12/6 @ Galesburg - USA

12/10 vs. Sterling - Dress like your type

12/13 vs. Moline - Black out

12/17 vs. Normal Community - Christmas

12/20 @ Geneseo - Neon

1/3 vs. DeKalb - Jersey

1/7 vs. Dunlap - Beach

1/10 vs. United Township - Camo

1/11 vs. Davenport West - Wild West

1/14 @ Alleman - Frat

1/17 @ Quincy - Groutfit

1/20 vs. Peoria Manual - Pajamas

1/24 vs. Galesburg - White Lies

1/25 @ Lincoln Community - Throwback

1/28 @ Sterling - Construction

1/31 @ Moline - Blackout

2/7 vs. Geneseo - Zoo

2/8 vs. Rockridge - ESPN

2/11 @ United Township - Formal Attire

2/14 vs. Alleman - Red & Gold

2/15 @ Auburn - Monochrome

2/18 vs. Quincy - White Out

Families at the Rock

siblings @ ROCKY

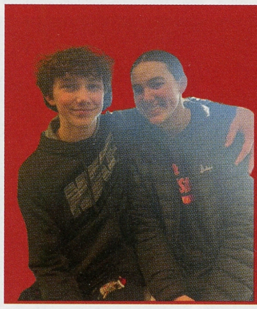
DYLAN AND KASEE FRANTZ

"Going to school with Kasee has been a very interesting experience. I get to help him with classes I have already taken, and guide him when he needs guidance. My favorite part is the dances. It's so fun getting ready with him and going to dinner with him and whoever he brings, and having a good time with my brother."
- Dylan Frantz

KAYLA AND ALAYNA MATHEWS

"I love going to school with my sister. It's so fun to see her in the hallways, have lunch with her, and even, at times, share classes with her. My favorite part of having her at school with me is automatically having a best friend here!"
- Kayla Mathews

ERIC AND ELAINA BISWELL



"My favorite part of going to school with my twin brother is seeing him in the hallways, and waving like a crazy person at each other. It makes me laugh, and also makes my day. Sharing high school with him is something I would want to do over and over again. He makes every day better when I know he is in the same building as me. He has truly been my best friend since day 1. Literally."
- Elaina Biswell

KARLI AND LAURYN BARKER

"It's nice being able to go to school with her. We know most of the same people, and we can easily ask each other for advice for certain classes. We do have a few classes together, too, so it's nice being able to see her. She's like my best friend."
- Karli Barker

AJ AND GRANT STEWART

"Going to school with my brother is something I've been used to all my life, since we are only one grade apart. Our friend groups have never really intertwined, but I do see him, sometimes, at social functions, so it's always kind of nice to know that I have someone looking out for me. I think the most that we share, so far, as 'high school experience' would be that we're both athletes, and oftentimes, go to each other's sporting events to support, which is always nice!"
- AJ Stewart

DAENIKA, JACOBY, & KIT ADAMS

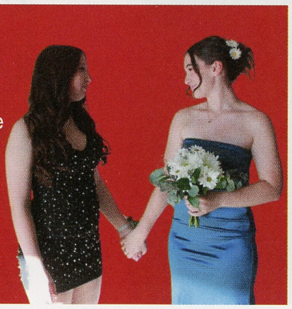
"It's great to go to school with them. You have someone to talk to about your classes, because they either had them or have them. Sometimes, I get teachers that ask about me because they have had my sibling before."
- Daenika Adams

CLAIRE AND CHARLOTTE O'HERN-MAIDAK

"I love going to school with my sister! My favorite part of getting to go to school together is the car rides to and from school. It's nice to have time just to talk about our days!"
- Claire O'Hern Maidak

ELIZABETH AND LUCILLE MCCOY

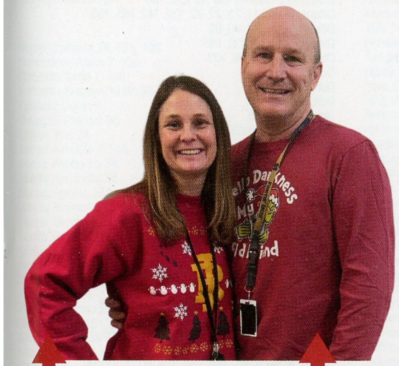
"Since I'm a senior, and my younger sister is a freshman, it has been fun to end my high school career, and watch her begin hers. I love watching her experience things that I have already, and seeing how she reacts, and likes or dislikes the same things I liked and disliked when I was a freshman. Having her here with me this year is going to make graduating even more difficult."
- Elizabeth McCoy



MASON AND JAYSON FRY

"I like seeing my brother in school, and being able to talk to someone that I'm close to. Having my brother here is nice because it's someone I know really well, and if I ever needed anything, or someone to talk to, I know that he's here."
- Mason Fry

married at the ROCK



SCOTT DYER, TEACHER

"Although a lot of people ask if it is horrible to work with my wife, it is actually nice. We ride to school together most days, making it cheap on gas. The building is large enough that we don't often see each other until the end of the day, unless something comes up. If either of us is gone or forgets anything at home, the other is usually able to spare any missing supplies. To be honest, I like it."

CHRISTINA DYER, TEACHER

"We have worked together for 25 years. It is not much different than anyone else. I like the fact that we are on the same schedule. We don't really see each other during the day, but can, if we need to. We also have common things to talk about, however, our jobs are pretty different."

MIKE MERTEL, TEACHER

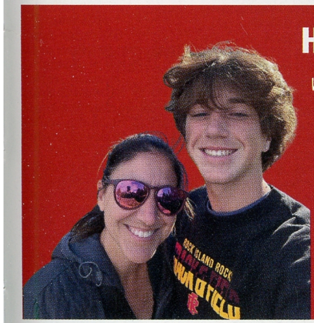
"Working with Katie has truly enriched our personal and professional relationship. It's nice to have a spouse that truly understands some of the low moments, and can talk through any difficult situations. We have learned, over the years, to be sure to give each other some space at school, and be intentional to not talk too much about work when we're at home. Rocky is more than just the school we teach at, it's family."

KATIE MERTEL, TEACHER

"Working with Mr. Mertel means having my own personal chauffeur - he drives us to and from work every day, and is the reason I'm on time!"

HARTZLERS

MOTHER & SON



"For me, going to school at the same school my mom works at is nice because there is a microwave in my mom's office. So, I can make my breakfast. But it is hard waking up early every day because my mom has to be at work early, and I have to go with."
- Dylan Hartzler, 10

VROMANS

MOTHER & DAUGHTER

"Going to school at the same school my mom works at isn't as bad as people think. She is on me about my grades, obviously, but other than that, it's pretty chill. It's also fun when I get the chance to ride to school with her, and talk to her teacher friends."
- Averi Vroman, 11

Legacies @ Rocky!

Kittermans

"My brother and I were the first in our family to go through and graduate from Rocky back in the 90's. Fast forward 30 years, and our family is leaving its legacy on Rocky, the district, and the community. It is beyond gratifying to now watch my daughter, nieces, and nephew make their way through the high school, whether it be in sports, theater, Color Guard, working on the yearbook, NHS members, being involved in many clubs, and volunteering in the community, also. That is the legacy that I hope every family can leave on its school and community!"
- Jared Kitterman, '99

Vosses

"It's a neat feeling to see your kids have success at Rocky. For me, it was helping build that RI sign on the corner lot of the football field in welding class. For my son, it was being captain for both the football and basketball teams. Now, my daughter is creating her own legacy with school clubs, photography, and being recognized by the National Honor Society."
Anthony Voss, '99

Adners

"I have wonderful memories of my years at Rocky, and I am so excited that my grandchildren have attended, and are attending the same school. I am so proud that we share that bond - Rocky Alumni forever!"
Marilyn Carrico, '67

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Rock Island

RIHS
Journalism

3rd Hour Journalism

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Journalism

2nd Hour Journalism

To Our Readers:

The yearbook you are reading was created by a staff of 46 sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and one advisor. This year, we had a large number of returning editors and students, and they did a fantastic job of leading the staff to create a unique book that showcased the student perspective of the year. The staff and editors made sure we hit every deadline this year, a huge accomplishment for a group of very busy and involved high school students. We made every attempt to produce an error free book, with all names spelled correctly. However, it is possible that we have made some unintentional errors.

As an advisor, I'm incredibly proud of this yearbook staff, many of whom I have had since their freshman year. I'm incredibly proud of their work, leadership, and determination to finish the book when challenges were thrown their way. In class, they learned how to interview, create layouts, take photographs, write articles, and track down sources. While the school maintains records and statistics of the year, my staff has the only retelling of the year from the student perspective. The staff met during 2nd and 3rd hour every day. They created new traditions for future classes, worked to problem solve and collaborate, and they are truly one of the best groups of students I have worked with.

To the parents and staff members who provided us with pictures (Jarrin Williams, Josh Parr, Melanie Putnam, and Play in the Sunshine Photos, to name a few), we thank you. You helped our staff more than you know, and we are grateful. To the yearbook staffers, I cannot thank you enough. I consider myself lucky to have worked with you. To the Rocky community, please enjoy this Watchtower, and know we did our best to tell this year's story of Rock Island High School.

-Mrs. Vens & the Watchtower Staff

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Professional portraits were provided by Photographic Arts by GPI.
The 450 copies of the book were sold for $55/ $60.

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